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NEAR EAST/SOUTH ASIA REPORT

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CHANGING SOCIAL NORMS REPORTED

Profile of Couples

Algiers EL MOUDJAHID in French 2 Jun 83 p 2

[Article by Nadjia Bouzeghrane]

[Text] Has the Algerian family broken up, as is being claimed here and there? Is it not more likely that it has simply been rearranged and reorganized, spatially at least, with the emergence of self-sufficient households or those aspiring to be seeking to put some distance and independence between themselves and other family members? Although there has been a relative amount of change because of that rearrangement, which is due to the desire of young couples to loosen their parents' hold, family ties remain strong, and the parents are present, if not physically then at least emotionally or symbolically through the educational and cultural heritage they have bequeathed.

Actually, the family is still a strong and powerful entity. This is made clear by the statements of couples we talked to concerning their households, families, and aspirations.

Malika and Kamal are cadres with diplomas from the University of Algiers, and they have been married for 5 years. They met at the university. Their marriage was more or less forced on Kamal's family, which had its heart set on another girl who would have remained at home as it wished. But things did not turn out that way. Faced with their son's determination--he was the first to take the liberty of choosing his own wife--the family had to give in. Kamal also decided to leave the family home with his wife. He had just been granted staff housing, a development that had not at all been anticipated by his parents, who regard it as another sign of the decline of parental authority, which for that matter is being increasingly challenged by the other children that have reached adulthood.

Kamal says: "I love my parents. I respect them enormously, but at the same time, I insist on making my own decisions concerning the life of my household without my parents doing it for me--in my stead and that of my wife." The young couple set up housekeeping in its new home. The first savings were used to acquire the indispensable: kitchen range, refrigerator, bedroom furniture, and dishes. Now, 5 years later, the couple feels that it has done all right.

Kamal and Malika have a cozy and comfortable home. The washing machine arrived with the birth of the first child. The color TV came a few days ago. Kamal obtained his automobile (a Passat) through a special dispensation obtained from his employer. And Malika has just gotten hers (a Fiat 128), which she bought from a cousin, although it is not yet entirely paid for.

They say: "Two cars are not a luxury. They enable us to solve a number of problems." They work in different places that are far from each other and in opposite directions. Malika is a teacher at the USTH in Bab Ezzouar, while Kamal works downtown, and they live in the Anassers housing development.

Malika says: "With my own car, I can do various things without depending on my husband, so that neither of us is put to any trouble. I work flexible hours, and that allows me to take care of certain daily chores like taking my son, who is 4 years old, to kindergarten and picking him up, doing the shopping, and so on."

Times Have Changed

Relations with Kamal's family eventually improved, and Malika has been accepted. While she is not a fully "integrated" member of the family, she is tolerated. Actually, she has proven herself to be a good wife and daughter-in-law. The prejudices felt by her in-laws toward her--or rather, toward women who work--have gradually softened because she has been equal to the task and has made a good home for their son.

Kamal and his little family visit their in-laws from time to time--because they want to and not because they are forced to. And they have made it clear--with difficulty, perhaps--that they intend to lead their own lives and run their household with complete freedom and that they will not tolerate any interference in their home.

Their home operates according to a plan that was worked out jointly: decisions concerning the household and its management are reached by both after talking it over. Household chores are shared, as is caring for the children. It is not unusual for Kamal to prepare the baby's bottle or to give it to her, to change her diapers, or to do the dishes.

"That brings comments and remarks from my mother and Kamal's, who do not understand or accept the idea of a man giving the baby its bottle or putting on an apron, but I try hard not to pay any attention. That's the best way to handle it anyhow."

And Malika continued: "It is hard to keep our parents from encroaching on our life, since it disconcerts them and does not fit into their code and their frames of reference. At the same time, we try hard to see that our relations with the family are correct and affectionate, and they are, although we have our ups and downs. Actually, one's family is always present, even when one lives somewhere else. I am often surprised to find myself making the same gestures as my mother and mother-in-law, who of course inherited the same gestures from theirs. The same thing happens to my husband." Malika also said:

"We are attached to the family, even though we don't want to live like our parents and even though we demand our independence as a couple. Of course, we do make concessions for the 'general good.'" One source of friction between the young couple and the family concerns the children.

"The family feels that two children in 5 years are not enough, especially since the second one was born 4 years after her brother. We don't want any more, at least not for the present. My wife and I feel that three children are the maximum. Our apartment is small. We don't have the necessary space for a big family, and throwing them out in the street is out of the question. And if my wife works, it is because we aspire to a certain level of comfort that my job alone could not pay for. Our parents do not understand that point of view and that way of thinking. Their argument is that they had several children who are now grown men and women. But times have changed. Needs are no longer the same, and neither are the exigencies."

Kamal's and Malika's dream is to have their own home someday with a small garden. And they may achieve it, since Kamal can obtain a 20-year building loan from his employer, provided that he finds a building site. To do so, he has filed an application with the commune where he lives, and now he is waiting.

Yes, he may get his house, but that will also require that his wife keep working to help pay for it.

Home or Work?

Dalila and Mustapha have been married for 7 years and have four children. Their marriage was arranged. Dalila used to work as a secretary, but after their third child was born, she gave up all outside activity. Her mother used to take care of the two oldest children during the day, but can no longer do so. She takes care of the baby of her younger daughter, who also works.

Mustapha is a white-collar worker, and Dalila must use a lot of ingenuity to make ends meet.

At first, having no experience, she did very badly, and her husband's salary would be gone in 2 weeks. She was forced to borrow.

As time passed, she learned to allocate and balance the budget after a fashion. To meet unexpected and difficult situations, she turns to her mother, who often and increasingly helps her out. Dalila has no in-laws except for brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law who live in the eastern part of the country. She rarely sees them, and then only on very specific occasions such as celebrations or deaths.

Dalila admits that running a household is very difficult, especially from the financial standpoint. Her husband hands her the money, and it is up to her to run the household for the whole month and take care of the many expenses.

She would like to buy a color TV set for the children, who are spending more and more time with the neighbors, who do have one. She would also like to have

a car. Her husband has had his drivers license for 8 years, and he has placed an order with SONACOME [National Mechanical Engineering Company]. He has been waiting for 6 years. Perhaps it is just as well, since the money is not available anyway. But Dalila is determined: "We will borrow. My mother will help us again, and we will have our car. We never go out; the children are always either trapped in the house or playing on the stairs."

Dalila plans to return to work. But she is a little apprehensive about doing so, because it will mean getting organized. Who will take care of the children while she is gone? The oldest child entered school this year. But someone will have to be at home for the others, even if they must go to the day nursery. How about domestic help? First someone must be found, and that is not easy. Will she be better off by going back to work? It is a dilemma. For herself and the children, she aspires to a level of well-being and comfort that her husband's salary cannot provide. Her obsessive fear? Running short of money at the end of the month and the interminable juggling to end the month without debts. Will she have to forget those aspirations and repress them until the children grow up and can take care of themselves? It is at such times that she regrets not having a mother-in-law.

A mother-in-law would have been a considerable help to her and would have gotten her out of her current difficulties.

Couple's Problem With Housing

Mahdia and Farid have been married for 3 years and have two little girls (aged 2 and 1 respectively). Their major problem, which generates a number of difficulties and a stormy atmosphere, is the lack of privacy.

Farid and Mahdia occupy one bedroom in the family apartment (four rooms in all, including that of the young couple, plus the dining room). Farid's parents and his three brothers and three sisters live there. Such crowded conditions are bound to result in problems, friction, and conflicts.

Mahdia does not work. She did not know her husband before they were married, but she immediately got on well with him. The problem is her mother-in-law and her sisters-in-law--girls her own age. Her mother-in-law runs the home and makes all domestic decisions. Mahdia knows that her husband cannot stand up to family authority. In all matters, she must ask her mother-in-law and not her husband. Whether she wants to go to the Turkish baths or visit her parents, she must tell her mother-in-law.

When her husband decides to take her out, there is always a scene. The result is that Mahdia has had to give up: "I cannot try to have any life for us as a couple or household or any intimacy except that in our own room. What is unbearable is not the fact of living with my in-laws but the absence of any life as a couple. My husband and I cannot decide anything by ourselves. Every time, we have to bring the whole family into it.

"How many times have my husband and I had to submit to a veto from my mother-in-law?"

Mahdia and Farid say: "The problem, and it is a serious one, is the lack of space. We are cramped for space. Two of my brothers are of marrying age. They are waiting for us to move somewhere else."

The national enterprise for which Farid works has promised him housing. He is waiting, and in fact, he has been waiting for 3 years.

"Our children are growing up. Our room is too small. We can no longer even move around in it with the children's beds being in there too. The dining room, which also serves as the living room, is filled with the whole family all day. At night, it is a bedroom for the boys," says Farid, who adds: "Overcrowded family conditions create problems. The best solution is for everyone to live in his own home. That makes it possible to maintain good relations--correct relationships--and to avoid quarrels and problems. It is true that my parents thoughtlessly encroach on my private life. On the other hand, because of the respect I owe them, I find it hard to stand up to them."

"For the moment, our plans for the future have been pushed into the background. They are tied to the prospect of getting our own home. Meanwhile, we are being given a place to stay by my parents, with all that entails in the way of consequences and constraints."

"If I still do not have a place to live after a few months, I plan on asking for a transfer to the south, and I would then take my wife and children with me, because I don't want my relations with my family to reach the point of rupture or to cause another rupture--one with my wife."

None of this indicates a questioning of the family as such, and no couple thinks it does--but it does reflect the desire for a rearranging of relationships within the family: a new equilibrium based on independent households and on a delimitation of decisionmaking centers and responsibilities.

Coeducation Discussed

Algiers EL MOUDJAHID in French 2 Jun 83 p 2

[Article by A. Ancer]

[Text] "Coeducation? I am for it!"

The speaker was a girl from the Aicha Lycee (Husseini-Dey, Algiers), but she was hurrying to get home. "School lets out at a certain time, and she must be home by a certain time!" Her parents are strict. The way she spends her time is known, and so is the length of time it takes to get home from the lycee.

The father of a girl in school thought about it for a split second: "No, I am not against coeducation, but it should start in primary school!"

The man speaking was a government employee--a cadre in an educational institution.

A male lycee student who also mentioned religion as an argument against the introduction of coeducation said: "As soon as I would get a notebook in front of me, I would start thinking about nothing except the girl. That used to happen to me when I was in a coeducational CEM [College of Intermediate Studies]. No, having girls and boys in the same school--that can't work."

One of his friends retorted: "That's because you were not as religious as you pretend. It was your own fault, otherwise you could have sat down at the same table with a girl without any ulterior motives."

The girls at the Ben Bouali Lycee in Medea are unanimous: "Coeducation is a necessity": it helps people know each other better, makes relationships more relaxed, and helps facilitate the exchange of ideas--and it would also keep dozens of boys from wasting hours and hours of their time behind the school fence.

A chief monitor in Algiers, knowing that some of the female students would occasionally linger in the streets talking to their male classmates, followed one of the girls home and talked to her parents. To his great surprise, they let him know that they did not see anything wrong with it.

One lycee principal is opposed to coeducation.

He says: "As a Moslem, I feel that morals take precedence over pedagogy. Coeducation must be banned. Once children reach the age of 7, there are too many problems. There is a natural tendency to get together, and that can lead to problems." He adds: "It is true that in a coeducational system, teenagers stay cleaner, behave better, and get better grades, but coeducation must be banned all the same."

A lady who teaches at a lycee in Hussein-Dey says: "In fact, there is not any mixing. Often, and particularly when students are brought together for the first time in a school or classroom with both sexes, the separation persists. There is not much to bring girls and boys together. For coeducation to be successful, it is necessary not only to get young people accustomed to it from the time they start school, but also to organize a cultural and athletic life that can develop healthy and genuine relations of camaraderie in them."

Another principal of a lycee for girls is convinced that coeducation can only have beneficial effects. He says: "With coeducation, organization and discipline are at a higher level, but the condition is that it must be continuous from the start of primary school."

Another school head takes a more qualified stand: "There are situations where there is nothing dangerous about coeducation, and by that I mean in the classrooms, during meals, during cultural activities, and so on."

As can be seen, opinions are divided and sometimes in direct opposition to each other. How can one explain those attitudes? Why are there differing opinions on the subject when coeducation is tending to become the general rule?

The universities are coeducational. By that we mean that the principle is applied in the sense that there are no special institutes or schools for each of the two sexes. In primary, intermediate, and secondary education, the process is quite far advanced. On the other hand, vocational training is lagging seriously behind. Except in a few sectors, vocational training benefits the male sex either predominantly or exclusively.

Coeducation in the university depends on having coeducation in the primary, intermediate, and secondary schools. The ratio between the sexes in terms of the baccalaureat is disproportionate: although clearly increasing, the number of girls taking the baccalaureat examination remains lower than the number of boys. Naturally, the causes are to be sought in the evolution of society. The percentage of Algerian girls in school is lagging. So before the problem of coeducation can really come up, there is a much more worrying problem to be solved: that of increasing school attendance by girls. Nationwide, nearly 80 percent of all children are in school. But most of the child population that is not in school is made up of girls.

The imbalance between the sexes grows worse as we move up from one grade to another, and the disproportion becomes glaringly obvious beginning with the age of puberty for girls, which corresponds more or less to the fourth year of intermediate school. This phenomenon should be viewed in terms of several factors. A girl's chance of completing her schooling or stopping at some point before that depends on whether she lives in an urban or a rural setting and also on her social origin. The parents, and especially the father, are very influential in determining the schooling that their children--and especially their daughters--will receive.

In general, the more heavily populated and integrated the urban setting, the better a girl's chances for continuing her studies. There is a very unequal distribution (by governorate) of the percentage of girls in secondary and technical education. In Algiers, the number of girls has tended to catch up with the number of boys over the past few years. In the 3 school years from 1980-1981 through 1982-1983, the percentage of girls rose successively from 45.4 to 47.91 and then to 48.2 percent. The percentage is very low in the southern governorates such as Adrar and Tamanrasset, where it ranges from 7 to 9 percent.

Nationwide, 38.85 percent of those enrolled in secondary and technical education are girls. The record this year is held by Annaba, which has 5,719 girls (48.2 percent) and 6,092 boys.

In technical secondary education, the percentage of girls is even smaller at only 24.84 percent, or 4,933 girls out of a total of 19,857 students enrolled in 1982-1983.

In all sectors of education, the farther one goes from the big cities, the fewer girls one finds in school. To guard against the consequences of such a situation, steps were taken in the very first years of independence to make school compulsory for all children regardless of sex. Other measures were adopted later to strengthen the democratization of education and thereby make

schools more accessible to girls. This involved the nationalization of private schools and the integration of education at the beginning level.

But the policy for regional balance was to remain the most effective means. The increase in the number of schools, CEM's, lycees, and so on throughout the national territory brought schools closer to where people lived, the prime objective being to see that all children of school age were in school. But the delays experienced in the planned programs, notably in the area of school construction, and the persistence of a certain mentality prevented coeducation from progressing as rapidly as one could have wished.

Coeducation Depends on Density of School Infrastructure

At the Education Directorate in Medea, we were told: "Necessity makes its own law: no country in the world can afford to maintain parallel educational facilities." Such an undertaking would be expensive. The practice was introduced by colonization. As is known, coeducation has long existed in France, but that did not prevent the colonial administration from introducing separate schools on the fallacious pretext of "respecting Moslem traditions."

Coeducation is spreading, however, as the number of schools increases. The reluctance shown by parents is generally overcome by having schools nearby. It must be expected that with the introduction of the basic school, which provides more opportunities, coeducation will reach into the most remote corners of the country. There are still schools that accept only one sex or the other, but they are becoming the exceptions. Their continued existence depends only on the will of the local authorities, and a decision by the latter would spare many children unnecessary strain and harmful delays in completing their schooling.

In secondary and technical education, necessity is indeed beginning to make its own law: 99 percent of the lycees opened in the new governorates or the districts are coeducational.

Nationally, coeducational schools are by far the majority, accounting for nearly 70 percent of the total. That progress is due to the choices made in deciding where to locate schools. By undertaking the construction of at least one lycee in each district, the authorities have helped considerably to facilitate the integration of girls. The next step (the construction of a second unit in each district and--why not?--the construction of lycees of medium size in large communes or those far from the district's administrative center) will provide girls with even easier access to an education.

Why Prejudices?

But prejudices do persist all the same. Sometimes they are a veritable scourge. This can only be combated by making people aware of the issues on the one hand and, on the other, as was said above, by increasing the density of the school infrastructure. For some time to come, however, there will still be fields where the integration of girls will encounter resistance. The Algerian citizen still does not often see the need for sending his daughter to study technical

subjects, and even less does he accept the idea of seeing her take a vocational course leading to trades regarded as being occupations for men.

It will be noted that these attitudes are temporary. The ways of thinking that currently characterize these attitudes will disappear with time, but especially as a result of the radical changes being experienced by society.

The same thing will happen with coeducation. Just as consciousness-raising resulted in acceptance of the idea that girls should go to school, so coeducation will also be accepted. Resistance is still being encountered here and there.

In the interest of safeguarding certain values, individuals are attacking the generalization of education and particularly the idea of girls in school.

That attitude is explained basically by the nature of society. While radical changes have in fact completely altered the country's economic landscape, people's mentalities have not kept pace with development.

The traditions of village society in particular have been partially maintained. As everyone knows, that society was based on the notion of the "paterfamilias." The extended family consisted of the grandfather and grandmother and their male children with their own wives and children. In such a society, the role of women was minimized because of the division of labor and the values associated with it. Everyone also knows that when such families broke up because of the rural exodus, they went to form the major portion of the population in the cities, including Algiers. So one should not be surprised at certain instances of resistance on the part of those families to sending their daughters to school, coeducation, and so on.

Family Abandonment Examined

Algiers ALGERIE ACTUALITE in French 26 May-1 Jun 83 p 8

[Article by Farida Abel]

[Text] There they are in court in response to the summons. They are ageless, and their features are often marked by a situation that they have endured for years. Mixed up in the same set of problems, they seem to be two anonymous people held together by a conflict and inspired by a subdued hostility that they barely suppress in front of the judges. They know why they were summoned to appear in court.

Husbands and fathers, depending on their mood or who knows for what other reasons, decide one day to put an end to their conjugal life. They leave home and family, abandoning wife and children without even realizing the enormity of their act. It is true that the motivations and factors behind the breakup which leads to a dislocation of the family unit are genuine and numerous, and it would be useless to recall them here, because they are so well known and experienced by a great number of people. But while living in close quarters, the housing crisis, incompatibility between persons living under the same roof,

and lack of understanding on the part of young couples married on the basis of chance affinities or the circumstances of life lead to a breakup of the family, the thing that must be emphasized is that there is no reason why the product of that union--no matter how ephemeral--should be the victim of a situation that could not be more reprehensible. We are referring to the children, unaware and above all innocent, who have their rights and needs and who will find their place in society only if those rights and needs are "respected."

Our remarks here are concerned essentially with that aspect of the problem: abandonment of home and family is a frequent occurrence, and it has existed from the beginning of time, but today it seems to be growing worse. It is becoming very easy and within everyone's reach to take a wife and then divorce her shortly thereafter.

The police services in charge of investigating such cases estimate that nearly 1,000 cases were reported in Algiers in 1982 alone. It is true that such a negative situation has its origin in an overall social framework.

In most cases, the individual is caught between a traditional scheme of things as handed down by his family and the new view of conduct offered to him by the time in which he lives, his aspirations, and the society in which he moves. That set of factors will cause him to hesitate and stumble when faced with the choice of a marriage that commits him to another person as he tries to satisfy both his own ambition and that of his family--as he tries to combine a modern and a traditional type of relationship. He eventually becomes aware that one of the two always wins out to the detriment of the other and results inevitably in most cases in a break: a rejection and questioning of his conjugal union. What needs to be remembered in this very brief approach to a tragic situation in our era is not so much the causes as the consequences of that situation--that is, what is generally caused by dissension, a breakup, and family abandonment. Concerning the law, we can say that the texts exist and that they cover both the spouse who, "without serious reason and for more than 2 months, abandons the family residence and evades any or all of his moral or material obligations consequent upon his paternal authority" and the spouse who, "in defiance of a court decision rendered against him or in contempt of an order or judgment directing him to make support payments to his spouse and his descendants, has voluntarily failed for 2 months to pay the full amount of the allowances ordered by the judge or to pay the full amount of the support payment."

In other words, regardless of how the spouse puts an end to his conjugal life, he is obligated to fulfill his moral and especially his material obligations on penalty of imprisonment and a fine. That being the case, how can one explain the fact that the vast majority of family abandonment cases result in dossiers, or rather, lawsuits that drag on in the courts for months or even years? What we were able to observe during the hearings, and it struck us as the crux of all such situations, was the slowness with which the man decides to pay "support for his children"--when he does not refuse pointblank, using 1,001 subterfuges as pretexts. And it is especially there that the shoe pinches. We will not even go into the question of the amount he is being asked to pay. It comes to 150 or 200 dinars per child. And let us say straight out that that is a totally ridiculous figure in itself, considering what it takes to educate and raise a

child and, from the strictly economic standpoint, the cost of living. But no matter how ridiculous, in the great majority of cases that support is ignored and not paid until the man is forced to pay it--that is, when the case in question is taken to court.

And what about the women who are unaware of their rights and who do not know where to turn? What about those who have been waiting for years for the courts to give them justice? The most distressing thing in cases of family abandonment is the situation of the mother, who--often illiterate, impoverished, and totally lacking in funds--finds it materially impossible to provide for her children's needs. Returning to her parents is far from being the most comforting solution, but that is often what she does. When she has no parents, what is left for the woman who has several children to take care of? One judge said: "We see honest women, the mothers of families, who are prepared to do anything to feed their children." Why are things allowed to reach the stage where everything is flouted: dignity, respect, and rights? While Islam gave the world a very noble conception of human dignity which condemns racism, chauvinism, and the exploitation of man by man, it also requested that the husband fulfill his obligations to women, his wife, and his children.

One reason for this disastrous situation seems to be the slowness of court procedure. When a woman files a complaint, it is sent to the local police station for investigation. Once the investigation is complete, the file is returned to the public prosecutor's office, and the public prosecutor decides whether or not proceedings should be instituted. If they are, the defendant is brought before the police court to be tried for family abandonment. Not until then is the guilty party compelled to pay the sum in question. For humanitarian reasons, the guilty spouse is often granted a delay in paying support. As a result of that legal procedure, complaints by the "abandoned parties" take a long time in getting resolved. One judge said: "The complaint is buried in thousands of complaints being handled by the public prosecutor's office. In most cases, it takes 2 years for the case to reach the court, rarely less than that and often even longer."

One judge told us that once the case has been decided by the court, judges will do one of two things. Some of them try to get the support payments paid to the wife, while others postpone the case several times. In all cases, the husband is either fined or sent to prison symbolically (that is, he receives a suspended sentence), or he is actually sent to prison for several months or given a suspended sentence. So the procedure is a long one.

The slowness and delays observed and criticized by a number of judges only "put the mothers of families in a critical situation, especially when the women in question are illiterate, unemployed, without means, of humble background, and saddled with a large family." That observation is supported by many lawyers. Until 1975, a woman could take the matter to a police court under the procedure known as "direct summons," meaning that the court took the case under advisement immediately and dealt with it with the greatest speed. This made it possible to eliminate the delays due to investigations and the numerous postponements which currently constitute the main obstacle and, above all, reduce the wife to a state of subjection.

Faced with such delays and such flagrant injustice, many women eventually give up and abandon all efforts through the courts. Could even the toughest persistence hold up against such procedures? Most often, the women give up "from weariness, lack of time, or despair when they see that the only result of their efforts is another postponement of the case or the payment of a paltry sum by the husband." How is it possible to tolerate a situation in which the father of a family can be allowed not to take monthly responsibility for his offspring when he is employed? No excuse should be tolerated when there are children to be fed, clothed, and cared for. What judgment should be passed on a father who deliberately abandons his home to remarry for a second or third time, have more children, and abandon those from his first marriage when he knows that their mother has no resources at all? Can we not go back to the process of "direct summons," which would force fathers to wake up to their act and its consequences? And if a father still refuses to pay, is it not possible to deduct the money directly from his paycheck and send it to the mother and children? Because the truth is that during the entire time that it takes to settle a case, the mother and the children have no resources.

The psychological, social, economic, and political implications of family abandonment are numerous and manifold. This means that attention must be turned to these tragedies. First of all, through the effects of the law, "which officially recognizes the duty of parents as regards the education and protection of their children." Everyone must fully realize that "improvement of the lot of women must include actions aimed above all at altering a kind of mental and legal environment that is negative and sometimes harmful to the exercise of their acknowledged rights as wives and mothers and their material and moral security." Only then will it be possible to reduce and contain the psychological, social, economic, and cultural effects that tend to sideline that fringe of abandoned wives and children who have been left to shift for themselves with no defense. There is no doubt that "the organization of the family," a dossier which will be submitted to the Central Committee this May, will provide the elements of an answer to this painful question by guaranteeing the protection of mothers and their children and gradually creating the conditions for safeguarding the family unit and permitting its full development.

11798

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WESTERN DESERT DEVELOPMENT VIEWED

Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 11 May 83 p 3

[Article by Faruq 'Abd al-Mun'im: "What Does the Western Desert Need? Desert Cities and Village to Create a New Agrarian-Industrial Society; Sources of Water Established Along the North Coast"]

[Text] A short while ago, the Western Desert and Matruh began to see important projects to create an agrarian-industrial society along the north coast. The projects are aimed at establishing areas to attract tourists and for the settlement of the bedouin of the Western Desert, along approximately 560 kms from west of Alexandria to the Egyptian-Libyan border ...and then to Siwah! About three-quarters of a million Western Desert people live in this area, mostly from the Awlad 'Ali tribes, in addition to the emigrants from the Nile Valley, Alexandria and Siwah.

In short, this vast area requires economic exploitation in the fields of agriculture, commerce, mining exploitation to extract oil, etc. Moreover, there is the coast to be used for sponge fishing, various kinds of fish, breeding of cattle, trade industries, searching for rare, hidden antiquities, and establishing a network of roads to tie together the area's cities and villages.

The Desert's Dossier

AL-AKHBAR conducted long interviews in which more than one official took part, such as Major General Yusri al-Shami, the governor, Ahmad Yasin, the acting secretary general, 'Ali 'Abbas, secretary of the National Party, Sultan Zaghlul, Mahmud al-Zabat and Zabid Rashid from the leadership of the People's Assembly, Nu'mah Yadin, 'Abd al-Halim Da'bas, 'Abd al-Salam 'Ulwani and Khayrullah Fadhl 'Utiwah, members of the People's and the Revolutionary Assembly, as well as the executive leadership from all sectors.

AL-AKHBAR was able to summarize in this report the Western Desert's requirements in order to create the new society, a society completely independent from west of Alexandria to the western border and then to the Siwah Oasis, in the words of Muhammad al-Sadiq, director general of relations in the province.

The Water Problem

At the outset, the most important problem of Matruh and the Western Desert is water; it requires a radical solution.

Matruh is located on a water line from Alexandria!

Water is shipped by trains, in special tanks, which wastes more than half of it enroute. There is a water pipeline from Alexandria, with a 7000 ton capacity of freshwater per day. Only about 2000 tons go into Matruh's reservoirs; the rest is wasted along the way!

There is always an inoperative condensor, and there are four desalinization units, but unfortunately, these operate at one-fourth capacity most of the time. This provides 500 tons per day.

Finally, there is the exploitation of natural sources of water from rainfall and the building of dams, etc., to increase the area cultivated with olives, almonds, barley, etc.

There is also the Nile water, which reaches the area of al-'Amid, 80 kms from Alexandria through a branch canal.

A New Pipeline

However, what is the solution to the water problem? Experts say that there is more than one project and solution to the water crisis. There is the solution of building a new line to pipe water from Alexandria, a distance of 290 kms, with a diameter of about 60 cms, with a later extension to al-Sallum for a total distance of 500 kms. This would be in addition to the present line that only has a 15 cm diameter. Pumping stations would also be built to pump the water the length of the northern coast to ensure continuous delivery of water in reasonable amounts. There are also projects to deliver Nile water to the northwest coast, by means of expanding the main al-Nurbariyah Canal and its branches: the al-Nasr, al-Thawrah, and the Maryut canals, in addition to the Bahij and al-Qasr canals. These canals cannot now get the water to the al-'Alamayn area, halfway between Alexandria and Matruh. That could be a point of departure to the areas of Fukah and Ras al-Hikmat (200 kms), after conducting search operations for mines.

New Cities for the Bedouin

There is the problem of settling the bedouin and creating a society suitable for them, to bring them in from various locations. The solution here is in the need for settlement. In fact, there is a general plan, in which the UN, the World Food Program and the Ministry of Reconstruction are participating. At the outset, the plan relies on offering assistance to encourage agriculture and settlement and offering the basics, establishing self-help projects and at the same time, building dams to hold back rain water, searching for artesian wells and establishing model farms.

From this starting point, it was decided to establish 7 main cities and 23 subsidiary villages along the north coast, and 3 airports in addition to the ports of Matruh, al-Sallum and al-'Alamayn.

This plan was in fact prepared by a Netherlands consulting firm, and implementation has actually begun.

- * The first city is an industrial one, near Mersa Matruh. It will accommodate 250,000 people.
- * The second city is also industrial in Burj al-'Arab. It will accommodate 150,000 people.
- * The third is al-Dhab'ah al-Jadidah, accommodating 30,000.
- * The fourth is in Ra's al-Hikmah, accommodating 50,000.
- * The fifth is al-Najilah al-Jadidah, 30,000.
- * The sixth is Sidi Barani al-Jadidah, 30,000.
- * The seventh city is al-Sallum al-Jadidah, with 4,000 persons.

This is in addition to the city of al-'Ammariyah al-Jadidah, which will be affiliated with the Matruh Province sector after the next expansion.

Planting 167,000 Feddans

The desert villages number some 23, each of which accommodating 1500 people. The plan also allows for planting 167,000 feddans as an extension of the Maryut project. An integrated agrarian-industrial society will be established on 34,000 feddans in al-Dhab'ah, earmarked for the cultivation of fodder, breeding of herds of cattle and sheep, the establishment of industries to process meat and dairy products, and the cultivation of vegetables. There is also a project for an industrial area in Sidi Karir for petrochemicals, gypsum, cement, caustic soda and chlorine industries.

A free zone in Matruh will also be established. This will be done through persons investing in this new free zone around the eastern harbor in Matruh.

Development of Matruh Harbor

The port of Matruh is a vital project, requiring many resources. Major General Yusri al-Shami, the governor of Matruh, says: "The port of Matruh could be an alternative port for Alexandria, assisting it with a limited variety of merchandise. However, this is with the proviso of a freeway being built, connecting Alexandria with a dual, high-speed railway, in addition to other necessary services, such as fresh water for ships. Let us begin with the present condition of the port as a first stage for supply, exporting and importing from and to Matruh, in addition to using it as a subsidiary port, if pressure is to be put on Alexandria, since the draft of Matruh's berths fortunately will allow the anchoring of large ships. Moreover, sheep and desert crops can be exported through the port of Matruh. It can also be used for tourists, provided that it be tied in with some of the tourist firms in Europe and America. A floating hotel must also be provided during the tourist season. The airport should be equipped to handle tourist groups directly to Cairo, Upper Egypt, Aswan or elsewhere, and return."

New Gains for the Desert

One must point out the gains achieved for the north coast and the Western Desert. Decisions have been taken as a start toward a radical solution. For example, a solution is being found for the water problem, by paving the road between Alexandria and Matruh and making it a dual highway. Work has in fact begun to convert the road into a first-class international highway leading to North Africa. There is also a microwave project for telephone communications and to broadcast television and radio programs. There is a poultry and egg project as well. Moreover, desert boys and girls are being given the opportunity to go to universities, institutes of higher education and military institutes without any quota system. An airline is being operated between Matruh and Siwah, Cairo and Siwah, and Cairo and Matruh at reasonable rates.

Some of the desert villages are being converted into model production villages, such as Burj al-'Arab, al-Dhab'ah and al-Safr, where there is a poultry project and another to spin wool.

The Desert, a Reconstruction Area

For the first time, an organization has been formed to follow up the implementation of reconstruction in the desert, under the leadership of Governor Yusri al-Shami, since the northern coast is a reconstruction area. This organization has been named the Advisory Agency for Reconstruction, and it has drawn up a general plan and timetable for the governor to approve. It will also be approved by Sultan Zaghlul, the president of the People's Assembly, as well as the people's leadership. It concerns matters of irrigation, agriculture, industry, electricity, communications, public utilities, etc.

Housing and the Desert

Engineer Hasbullah al-Kafrawi has announced the construction of 1200 housing units for the people of Matruh and the northern coast during the current 5-year plan, the construction of 3 water reservoirs to accommodate about 50,000 cubic meters of fresh water, and the elimination of trespassing on desert lands, which are turned over to cooperative associations.

As for Siwah, it has been decided to establish a new model village around the village of Umm al-Saghir and districts inside the Siwah Oasis itself, by using the local raw materials. There is a drainage project in Siwah, which will connect Birkat Aghurmi Pond with Birkat al-Zaytun Pond, a distance of 17 kms.

Lost Antiquities

Finally, the Western District lies over a world of antiquities from various ages. Unfortunately, neither antiquity experts nor tourists know anything about them. There are the graveyards of World War II, the al-'Alamayn War Museum, Rommel's Museum, the Abu Mina' area, Cleopatra's Baths, the Abu Sir

area, the Umm al-Rakham area, the area of 'Ilm al-Rum, the temple of al-Alah Amun, Jabal al-Mawta, the temple of Alexander the Great, the remains of the temple of Ramses II, etc., etc.

All of these antiquities need re-examination, care and attention and more publicity.

Much has been done, but there is still much more waiting to be done.

7005

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FISH HATCHERY DEVELOPMENT ENCOURAGED

Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 8 May 83 p 3

[Article by Mirfat: "Fish Farms on Wastelands and Swamps"]

[Text] If you own or lease a plot of land that is unsuitable for agriculture, that is wasteland or saline soil or even marshland, any place in Egypt, provided it is near either fresh or salt water, then you can convert it into a fish hatchery. This will serve more than one purpose, since it will provide a handsome profit. The production of one feddan of a fish farm each season will fluctuate between 300 and 2000 kgms of mullet, boliti, and [al-mabruk] annually. You will also share, with limited costs, in producing the cheapest form of animal protein, suitable for all income levels, from sea bass to boliti.

This invitation opens an area that is unknown to most people. Its costs are limited and its profits rewarding. The one extending the invitation is the Institute of Marine Sciences of the Academy of Scientific Research, which since 1969 has been successful in introducing pisciculture into Egypt. The first experiment was in the al'-Abbasiyah marshy area or swamp in Abu Hammad, in the al-Shariqiyah Province. New types of fish were cultivated, including the al-Mabruk fish, which they succeeded in acclimatizing to the Egyptian climate and water, so that it became one of the basic fish for these fish hatcheries, after these farms began to spread from one place to another. The Egyptian fellah likes to adopt successful experiments. Each fish farm of one area has spread out to other areas, when examples of success were noted. Therefore, fish hatchery acreage has multiplied from 150 feddans in 1969 to an area of more than 60,000 feddans this year, located in all parts of the country.

Fish resource specialists in Egypt say that these farms have become a basic source of fish, sharing in production with the coastal regions that extend more than 1000 kms along the northern coast of Egypt, 100's of miles along the Red Sea littoral and the more than 1100 kms of the Nile River, which splits Egypt from south to north, dispersing its bounty along its shores. All this is in addition to the domestic lakes' fish production. Despite this multiplicity of sources, our fish production is inadequate for domestic consumption, and we are forced to import frozen fish. Therefore, the importance of establishing fish farms to share in this production increases, and the American AID organization has agreed to grant Egypt assistance and participate in developing fish cultivation in Egypt. After the success of the experiment begun by the

Institute of Marine Sciences was established, as the director of the institute, Dr Ahmad al-Rifa'i Bayumi, says: "The change in eating patterns led to the masses' acceptance of fish as an alternative to meat. Despite the rise in the price of some types of fish, the multiplicity of varieties puts it within reach of any family, no matter how low their income. Therefore, we have made scientific efforts to introduce crops of fish to share in our increased production. The success of our experiment had a significant impact on the expansion of fish farms as a means of utilizing wasteland that is unsuitable for agriculture and in reducing the dangers of marshes, since certain kinds of fish feed on gnats and mosquitoes. The spread of these insects is prevented during the fish breeding season, which extends from March to November.

Many people have come to realize the profitability of fish farm projects. Some have resigned from their jobs to engage in running these farms. They were able to increase their production until they became experts, and we seek their views at times when establishing new hatcheries."

Only Two Conditions for Fish Farms

As for the facilities offered by the Institute of Marine Sciences to citizens wishing to convert their land into fish farms, Dr Munir Mikha'il Ashaq, deputy director of the Institute for Inland Waters and Fish Hatcheries, lays down one proviso: "The land must not be suitable for agriculture and must be close to sources of fresh or salt water, or water that drains cultivated lands." After submitting a request to the institute for a survey, accompanied by an official document proving ownership or leasing of the land, along with a detailed map of the land's location and size, the person pays the institute a token fee to confirm that he is in earnest. After that, the institute will send one of its experts to do a "free" survey. Studies are conducted on the land, and soil and water elements are analyzed, as well as the variety of neighboring crops and the pesticides being used.

Fish Harvest At Token Prices

"After confirming the land's suitability, the role of planning comes into play; planning is important in economizing on costs. We divide the farm into basins or pools, whose size depends on the size of the plot of land. The factor of the financial capability of the landowner enters into determining the costs. Planning deep pools is more costly but more productive. Therefore, the Institute of Marine Sciences establishes a plan to manage the farm in the best possible way, making use of previous experience. It determines for the farm owner the dates of breeding, gathering and the required annual labor. Based on the composition of the soil elements and degree of salinity, it also determines the type of fish that can live in that environment.

"The Institute of Marine Sciences provides the 'fish crop' at token prices and determines the appropriate amount based on the size of each pool. It recommends the best way to transport the fish. The wrong way to ship them could result in killing a large percentage of the fish, which increases the costs and reduces the profit.

"As for methods of feeding the fish, there are natural components of the soil to which can be added specific types of fertilizers. Fish fodder can be used. This is a manufactured food supplement that can be obtained by agreement with the province in which the farm is located, as well as in cooperation with the Agricultural Ministry's Agency for Water Resources. Payment is a share of the fish production, in exchange for the owner obtaining the fish food supplement."

Improving Fish Strains

In addition to this production plan, there is another plan no less important. This is the research that proves how knowledge can have a share in creating new economic opportunities. Its participation continues with continuity of experimentation in measuring and observing results, and constant amending of plans in order to increase success. Marine sciences experts follow up the measuring of fish growth rates in the basins and the most suitable food for each type. They also conduct experiments which ultimately are aimed at finding a special fodder for fish from non-traditional sources, such as agricultural waste products. That would prevent competition between fish fodder and animal fodder.

There is also a program to study fish diseases, to improve methods of managing the farms and to improve the strains of fish. Among these now being improved is the boliti, the most deep-rooted of Egyptian fish. There are also attempts underway to introduce new species of fish into Egypt. Some of them are "Nilotic" fish, such as the Bani, and some are ocean fish, such as the danis and the sea-bass.

This economic field is not new in Egypt. On the contrary, it is spreading day after day, adding to our fish resources through the use of Egyptian expertise only, with no need for foreign experts.

Most economic experiments are better off if the academic expertise is on the spot. When the scientists come down from their ivory towers, they can change the features of economic life for the better. They go half the distance, while the other half remains for each of those who participate in that economic activity to resort to knowledge and the scientists, in order to find solutions to the problems. It is an invitation, and many are responding, so that Egypt can benefit from the minds of its people, an invitation to liberate scientific research from the prisons of the laboratories and the confines of drawers and shelves!

7005

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MEAT PRICING, DISTRIBUTION PROBLEMS CITED

Cairo AL-AHALI in Arabic 4 May 83 p 3

[Article by Hasan Badawi: "The Poor Are Gradually Becoming Unable To Obtain Meat, and Are Reaching the Point Where They Are Unable To Obtain Anything But Water"]

[Text] Poultry production is increasing at 35 times the rate of population increase. For every citizen who eats eggs or poultry 20 do not eat it. Even in the journalists' union cooperative meat is completely gone within half an hour. There is no shortage of fodder, but the problem is poor distribution.

The members of the People's Assembly, most of whom are in the ruling party, expect that Egyptians will spend Ramadan this year without meat because the price of a kilo of meat will rise to 8 pounds, and maybe even more, when the high-consumption season begins, starting during Ramadan and ending with the Feast of Immolation.

This means that 38 million Egyptians who live at the minimum wage--25 pounds a month--will become vegetarians. They might even turn into consumers of nothing but water, in view of the continual rise in the vegetable prices.

The government's flunking the meat test is part of a pattern in which it has flunked all its tests in all subjects, from the bar association test to the test on Haykal's book. It is strange that it is still in power.

Unlike in every other country in the world, in Egypt the government does not lose its seat if it fails to provide what the people want. It continues in power, despite its failure in every examination.

The Signs of Failure

The symptoms of the government's failure in the meat problem are numerous, acute and shameful.

Price standards for everything have been shattered. The price of a kilo of meat has reached 5 pounds--and that is for the worst quality meat of old cows. The good quality meats are sold in the hotels and tourist installations and to those who pay extra.

The minimum wage--25 pounds [a month]--is equivalent to the price of 5 kilos of beef, while meat covered by price supports, which is sold at 240 piasters a kilo, costs the citizen at least half of his salary to buy 5 kilos of it. Five kilos of meat sold in the government consumer stores at 1 pound a kilo cost him a fifth of his salary. And in order to even get it he must be trained in every kind of battle technique and maneuver so he can plunge into the terrible battle we see outside every cooperative organization as millions of poor people crowd and scramble to obtain cheap meat, of whatever quality. This forces them to eat chicken less and imported crow meat, according to the law of Tawfiq 'Abd-al-Hayy and his cronies among the knights of the ruling party.

Poultry is almost entirely absent from Cairo's markets. At the farm it costs 130 piasters a kilo. It reaches the consumer at a price between 150 and 160 piasters, compared with 120 piasters under the pricing law which was in effect only 4 months ago. The price of domestic chickens has risen to 270 piasters, and in certain districts to 320 piasters. Duck has risen to 240 piasters, rabbits to 220 piasters and a pair of pigeons to 250 piasters.

At a press conference, Dr Fahmi 'Awd, head of the division of internal medicine at the veterinary school said the following:

"The average per capita rate of chicken consumption in Egypt is 10 chickens a year, or about 25 grams a day; and of eggs, 100 eggs a year, or about 1 egg every 4 days."

The preceding figures mean that for everyone who eats half a kilo of meat a day 5 people do not eat it at all. Whoever eats half a chicken a day deprives 20 citizens of chicken. Whoever eats 5 eggs a day deprives 20 citizens of any eggs at all.

Because the 45 million Egyptians do not obtain their shares of food on an equal or approximately equal basis because of the severe disparity of income--(and consequently in the size of their stomach)--there are, in fact, people who eat more than half a kilo of meat a day, more than half a chicken and more than five eggs. In contrast to them there are millions who never see meat and do not know what protein tastes like, or only have very little of it on special occasions, festivals and holidays.

The Majority and Cheap Meat

Several meters from the Governorate of Giza, at a government-run consumer store more than 100 men and women are crowding. Each of them wants to obtain 2 kilos of cheap meat, the quantity allowed for each ration card each week.

A woman, about 50 years old, who refused to give her name, said the following:

"I buy 2 kilos a month, not each week, because there are 8 people in our family. Our entire family income is 30 pounds, from welfare. If we brought 8 kilos at 8 pounds where would we get money for the rent? and for clothing and education for the children? and for the rest of the food? I buy 2 kilos and divide it four times, so the cooked food has the smell of meat.

The cooperative has little meat, so there are crowds. Not everyone can buy it, even from the cooperative."

The woman--along with some who had gotten their share and were participating in the conversation--agreed that some people got the lion's share of the meat, even from the cooperative, and that they obtained the best parts leaving the rest for everyone else, and also leaving a question about exchanged favors.

When they found out that the minister of agriculture had said that the shortage would finally be solved in 7 years, some said, "It's just talk. We've often heard it before."

One of them said, "I suppose we'll have to give up meat."

Others said, "What they give up is his concern. We are the ones who are working with a shortage of meat."

Not Only In the Street

The crowds scrambling for cheap meat are not limited only to the poorer districts. Demand is increasing even in the richer neighborhoods, at the professional cooperatives, and among sectors with incomes that are relatively reasonable compared with the conditions of the Egyptian street, such as judges, lawyers and journalists.

The Journalists' Union cooperative receives 2 tons of meat monthly for the more than 2,000 members of the union. This comes out to 1 kilo a month for each journalist. This quantity comes in an unorganized fashion. The demand for it is so great, that even the quantities that are held back are exhausted within half an hour. The cooperative receives about 1,000 chickens a week, or 2 chickens a month for each journalist. These quantities are generally not sufficient for one-fourth of the members. They are consumed by about 400 journalists, the ones who come to the union cooperative on a regular and frequent basis. Those who alter the ration card receive a bag containing 2 or 3 kilos of cheap meat at a cost of 1 pound a kilo.

If this is the situation of the journalists, we can imagine the situation of the 8.6 million citizens whose entire income is 25 pounds a month.

Despite all this, a few weeks ago in a talk before the People's Assembly, the minister of supply, Dr Naji Shatalah, said, "We have ample and secure supplies of goods of all sorts."

On 22 April 1983 the following appeared in AL-AHRAM:

"Either we trust ourselves and others, and tell them that the ration card will only entitle them to a kilo of meat a month--which is the maximum that supplies will allow--or we rapidly and practically translate what was announced about "regulating the supply of supported meat" which will only be achieved with quick contracts to import live animals. The minister of supply has not yet announced a schedule or the quantities that are involved.

A Dangerous Political Weapon

Instead of confronting the problem directly and making plans for self-reliance to remove itself from the international capital market with its inflationary crises, and confronting those who are to blame for creating and spreading these problems, and changing the policies which are helping them to do that, the government resorts to increasing its dependence on foreign countries. It has left the rope around the camel's neck at home for the big merchants, while it proceeds to import everything, from corn and fodder to live animals and frozen meat.

According to newspaper reports the Ministry of Supply last year imported 100 million pounds worth of frozen meat and 180 million pounds worth of live cows, while in 1970 we imported only 4.2 million pounds worth.

The minister of supply stated that Egypt will import 2 billion pounds worth of food a year.

The minister of agriculture has proposed increasing meat imports as a palliative solution to the problem. Mukhtar 'Abd-al-Hamid, a deputy in the People's Assembly, has called for increased supplies of imported meat. Others are calling for increased imports of fodder. This tendency would actually lead us to national disaster. It offers our necks to international capitalism, allowing it to control us by controlling our food.

Dr Muhammad al-Bajis, a member of the board of the Veterinarians' Union, said the following: "We must understand that food in general has become a dangerous political weapon. It is being used these days skillfully and ruthlessly against the resistance of the poor people to subjugate them to the policy of the one who holds the key to the pantry. The one who controls your food is able to control your entire destiny. Because international studies indicate that world demand for meat is growing at a higher rate than for any other agricultural product, meat has become an open field for another kind of war, in which nations participate not only with the two traditional producers but certain subsidiary rulers, diplomats and soldiers have been thrown together along with the giant companies, even the multinational industrial companies. Some of them have discovered that the profit

to be made on a rotl of meat is much greater than that to be made on a rotl of car, as the director of the Volkswagen Corporation said after it entered the field of meat trading."

The Principal Reason For the Difficulty

Dr al-Bajis added, "The operation has gone from the hands of the millions who produce and who had been feeding themselves and suiting all their circumstances in the past, into the hands of influential business contractors. This group discovered early that profits from the meat business had become enormous with the help of certain strangleholds on the price and distribution systems of fodder. Additional factors were the failure of the government sectors to perform their proper role, and the official support this group has been able to obtain in its own ways, involving land, credit and import facilitations. They quickly jumped into the field and widened the gap between production costs and retail prices. In recent years this group has been able to use its influence to dominate the market and guide pricing policies in the area in which it was involved, regardless of the number of victims. Despite the fact that more than 10,000 poultry farms have been established in the last few years, the prices of meat that is available for sale on the market have remained high by virtue of the complete domination of the market by a powerful lobby of porters, idlers, smugglers, and refuse of various professions, and certain influential people and their relatives. They have been helped by the general atmosphere. They have become prominent and have divided the roles among themselves. The people have paid a price in blood for spoiled imported food, while local produce is exorbitantly priced."

Additional Reasons and Some Suggestions

Mustafa Zaki, the director general of the chamber of commerce, said the following at a press conference: "The role of the public sector is not clear in solving the problem of high meat prices. Consequently the field is wide open for the private sector to control the market without opposition." He added, "It is necessary to restrict the distribution of imported live animals to the retailers and keep them away from the greedy wholesale dealers. Permanent warehouses must be built for selling domestic and imported animals which are slaughtered locally. Furthermore, there must be complete supervision by the state over supported meat, as called for by decree of the butcher cooperative statute."

The minister of supply said the following: "Half a million calves are slaughtered annually, weighing 60 to 70 kilos apiece. They must be fattened to weigh 500 kilos apiece."

"In other words, we are losing 170,000 tons annually because of the slaughter of calves. That is much larger quantity than the meat we produced last year, which was estimated at 134,000 tons according to a report of the advisory committee for 1982-83."

"But," the minister then added, "the people must not buy veal."

We would like to ask which people does the minister mean? The majority who buy meat at the cooperative for a pound or 240 piasters a kilo for supported meat? Or the citizen who buys a kilo or two each month from the butcher at 5 to 10 pounds to obtain beef from the worst parts of old cows? Where and to whom is veal sold? Isn't it assumed that the slaughter of calves is forbidden, and not that we demand that people not buy it after it is slaughtered?

The Government and the Merchants

At a recent meeting between the responsible ministers and wholesalers in the Cairo slaughterhouse the wholesalers agreed to reduce the price of live beef cattle by only 5 piasters a kilo from the current price of 330 piasters a kilo. What that means is that the price to the consumer will be no lower than 7 pounds per kilo because after slaughtering, the net weight in meat that remains is approximately 50 percent of the weight of the live calf. They also demanded that the butchers sell it at 450 piasters, and the meeting ended at that point.

The committee thus dissolved itself by simply agreeing to the demands of the big merchants.

Then the butchers asked for a meeting with the butchers' branch of the chamber of commerce.

Even if we were to accept a price of 450 piasters a kilo, how would we settle accounts with the Ministry of Supply investigations? The price schedules set 3 years ago set the price at 250 piasters a kilo [word illegible].

The government leaves the big merchants alone. It even provides them with excuses for additional price increases. Its personnel are always saying that the problem has two main causes. These, according to the government, are the high rate of consumption compared with production, and a shortage of fodder. The government thus provides the big merchants with beams on which to raise their prices, and destroy the oppressed and the unfortunate perish.

The First Phony Excuse

Mukhtar 'Abd-al-Hamid, a deputy in the People's Assembly, stated the following: "The meat problem in Egypt will not be solved by mandatory pricing. Otherwise we will one day find ourselves without a single butcher from whom to buy. The entire problem is one of supply and demand. We are suffering from a shortage of domestic production."

A deputy in the People's Assembly proposes reducing the support on imported meat (which the majority consume), and using the funds to buy fodder, which is sold by the powerful big dealers in the black market.

Official figures confirm the invalidity of this phony excuse, that consumption outstrips production.

Engineer Salah al-Mahdi, the president of the National Poultry Company, said the following: "There are about 10,000 poultry farms, of which 6,000 have contracts with the company. We cover 60 percent of the requirements of the private farms.

Five years ago the company's production was 20 million chickens. It is now 120 million, an average increase of 25 million chickens a year. If we add the production of the private farms which do not have contracts with the company--about 60 million chickens--the total is about 180 million chickens, or an annual growth rate of more than 35 percent."

Does the annual rate of population growth exceed this? The population is increasing by slightly more than 1 million people a year, according to the well-known figure of one birth every 27 seconds.

Despite this huge increase in poultry production, prices have remained high, and poultry is extremely difficult to find in Cairo's markets.

A report on livestock production in Egypt by the Committee On Productivity and the Labor Force in the advisory committee indicated that the price of red meat has more than quadrupled since 1974, while the annual rate of growth in livestock has remained at 2 percent.

According to a report by the UN Food and Agricultural Organization average world consumption of meat is 25 kg a year, while the average in Egypt is 7 kg a year (red meat and poultry).

Where is this huge consumption which the government is offering to the big dealers as a basis on which to raise their prices?

The Second Phony Excuse

Two weeks ago Dr Naji Shatlah, the minister of supply, said the following: "It has become clear that a shortage of fodder is the cause of the problem. Our fodder requirements are 18 million tons, but we have only 12 million." He added that he has faith in the price support system and aiming it at the consumer. He does not call for supporting primary substances such as fodder, because that would create a black market.

In a television program he said that lifting supports from fodder would raise the cost by only 20 piasters.

Engineer Mahmud al-Sayyid, the director general of fodder in the Ministry of Agriculture said the following: "Our total production of fodder is 950,000 tons a year which covers approximately 60 to 65 percent of our requirements. Corn requirements for 1982-83 have been estimated at about 1.5 million tons."

Which of the two statements should we believe, the director of fodder's or the minister of supply's?

Is there shortfall of 400,000 tons or 6 million tons?

The director of fodder added, "The question of fraudulent activities with corn ration cards is the responsible of the governorates, not the ministry. The problem of fraud cannot be prevented. In my opinion, as soon as the government does anything, we will find the means to commit fraud with it. (Actually, there are mechanisms built in that make it unnecessary for us to control everything and investigate deception and fraud by any means)."

Last September Dr Yusuf Wali, the minister of agriculture, said the following: "At a meeting in one of the governorates of upper Egypt ordinary people said that fodder was not being distributed properly and that it was being sold on the black market. At that meeting I said that we had to investigate the fodder situation in the governorate. The governor formed committees. It was determined that the majority of the leaders in the governorate raised livestock, and were obtaining fodder unlawfully." The minister added, "Authorizing 1,000 tons of fodder for someone is like giving him 120,000 pounds."

It is known that the big raisers who own more than 50 head of cattle obtain 150 kg of fodder a month for each calf, while small raisers obtain only 120 kg. These quantities are distributed in a single shipment.

Muhammad 'Abd-al-Hakim, the owner of a farm near the pyramids said, "Fodder allotments are sufficient for all the farms. It is assumed that they are not sufficient. They do not keep up with the crazy rise in prices."

Dr Muhammad al-Bajis said, "Certain people hold the view that the amount of fodder we currently have is sufficient provided that it be collected and distributed throughout the year by processing the additional amounts which are produced in the winter."

So is it right for the minister of supply to offer a fodder shortage as another excuse for the big dealers to raise their prices? In fact, we agree with the government and with the minister that there is a shortage of fodder in the nation's silos. But along with all the people we emphasize that it is, in fact, available on the black market which was created by the big dealers and certain leaders of the ruling party who are profiting from it. They have been emboldened to do this by policies which have given them free rein.

An Accurate Diagnosis

Dr al-Bajis said, "What has been said about the current problem and the sudden rise in meat prices, and the sense of instability felt by the masses, is an episode in the game between the meat contractors and the government to raise prices. The decision was made to time it a reasonable amount of time before the advent of Ramadan.

If we make an effort to remember, we realize the game has gone on for years. Prices were agreed upon by the two parties. These were surpassed by higher agreed-upon prices, and so on.

So when the public sector--the Egyptian Meat and Food Importing Company--controls the slaughterhouses, and it has the sole right to deal with it, the private sector will be separated as cattle importers and meat consignees. The public sector alone will determine the price of importing and the price of consignment. It will immediately be able to control matters and determine the price to the consumer.

Suggestions For the Agencies

Dr al-Bajis added: "It seems to me that Ministry of Agriculture personnel, and specifically those involved with veterinary medicine and livestock and agricultural production, are today more than ever before calling for careful scrutiny of current ideas and conducting thorough and democratic discussions about the meat and food shortage in general. They are seeking to establish a solid scientific basis with which to keep up with our needs, and to devise a strategy focusing on independence from the international market and the meat mafia. They are seeking self-reliance after settling the questions related to the form of ownership and the fact that our livestock resources are slipping out of the hands of the farmer, especially in view of the fact that there is a more or less permanent recommendation for all concerned conferences. The underlying idea behind this recommendation is that government subsidized animal raising--in state farms, cooperatives and the private sector--according to the appropriate rules, is the sole way to true development. These personnel must also, for their part, work to improve breeding and direct their investments basically to productive varieties of meat animals, and they must search for the best ways to provide whatever is required for production. They must collect fodder and distribute it throughout the year. They must concern themselves with other ways to provide animal protein, such as investigating the possibility of expanding sheep raising. They must get poultry production under control, and must concern themselves with possibilities of fish. They must study the situation of the government companies concerned with livestock production, and they must help them to carry out their true responsibilities.

Is the government thinking about seriously and decisively confronting the root of the problem, to wit, the system of fodder distribution, its black market and the meat contractors and wholesalers? Or is it clinging to their coattails in the desire for friendly relations with the meat mafia?

This is the crux of the problem. We have seen the figures and phony pretexts and the explanations which help the people who are causing the shortage to continue to plunder and obtain riches at the cost of causing millions to go hungry. The solutions, or some of them, are also to be found outside the government.

This is the real problem, the way the people perceive it. What are you doing?

9123

CSO: 4504/383

LAND RECIPIENTS ENCOUNTER DIFFICULTIES

Cairo AL-AHALI in Arabic 4 May 83 p 4

[Article by Kifah Sayyid: "Most Of the Land Given To Graduates Is Not Arable; the Graduates Are Demanding a Serious Investigation Instead Of Rosy Statements"]

[Text] A study by the International Center For Settlement and Rural Development in Maryut has confirmed that a large portion of the land which was distributed to graduates of the agricultural colleges has not attained productive independence, particularly in the al-Tahaddi sector and in Central Egypt.

The study attributed this to the fact that the graduates received the land a year after it was reclaimed. But cultivating it requires a year to improve the soil and remove salts. It should then be cultivated for the next 2 years with crops suited for reclamation of the soil. That did not happen.

According to the study the graduates were facing difficulties in irrigation and drainage because their land was situated at the ends of the public canals which has an effect on water levels. In addition, the land irrigated by sprinklers was no better off, because of the inadequacy of the irrigation stations as a result of age, the fact that its units have been out of service and interruptions in electricity. The districts of al-Nahdah, Sin al-Hajar and al-Hamul also suffer from poor drainage because the sewers are not cleaned, which is the responsibility of the Ministry of Irrigation.

The study maintained that all the areas given to the graduates lack many of the facilities and services necessary for creating new societies: drinking water, health and educational services, roads, lighting, bakeries, markets and means of transport. In addition, the loans given to the graduates were inadequate to meet the challenge of earning a living.

This land was distributed in two phases in 1976-77. Of the land that was distributed, 40 percent was fallow in the first phase and 45 percent in the second phase, while 26 percent was deficient in the first phase,

and 27 percent in the second phase. Some of the graduates were compelled to exchange their land, and there were 240 instances of exchange in the al-Tahaddi sector, 25 instances in Central Egypt and 20 in al-Nahdah.

The graduates think the government is not living up to its promises to take care of the project. One of them said, "We spend our loans to improve the soil and increase its productivity, and to build a home. That should have been done before the land was distributed. This has forced us to seek a grace period. It makes it impossible for many of us to pay. A serious examination is needed instead of rosy statements."

9123

CSO: 4504/383

RENEWAL OF SOUTHERN UNREST EXAMINED

Johannesburg THE STAR in English 6 Jun 83 p 8

[Article by Henry Reuter]

[Text]

JUBA — Threats of imminent conflagration in the South Sudan which have featured annually in world headlines since the 1972 North-South peace agreement have reached a new intensity, with the reactivation of the Anyanya guerilla movement which fought the northern Arabs in a 17-year civil war.

In many respects, a new war of attrition has already begun. Anyanya is the name of a deadly poison derived from the crushed head of a cobra. Anyanya II is the name of the African movement now raiding northern military and police posts in South Sudan, ambushing military convoys and raiding armouries.

Reinforced by many recent Southern Sudanese army deserters the Anyanya II force now hiding in the swamps and forests is believed to be 2 000 strong. It has not announced its objectives but the circumstances surrounding its creation are indicative.

It began in January when northern troops arriving at Bor in the south to swap places with the garrison's southern army contingent were fired on and chased away by the southerners, who refused to be transferred. Many defections of southern troops to Anyanya II followed.

On the surface the African soldiers were objecting to an apparent breach of the 1972 peace agreement, which called for 6 000 southern and 6 000 northern troops to be stationed in the south and stipulated that only the northerners could be rotated between north and south.

DISCONTENT

The Africans feared they would be posted to help Iraq fight its war with Iran, and that the Arab troops had been sent south to repress the southern Africans. They also claimed that on their low army pay R10 to R35 a month they could not afford to live away from their farms and families.

But the real reasons for southern discontent go much deeper. In the first place, the vast majority of southern people — the Nilotic tribes such as the

Dinkas, the Nuers and the Shilluks — have always claimed they were "robbed" when the 1972 peace agreement was negotiated not with their own forces, totalling more than 18 000, but with Mr Joseph Lagu, a southerner of Bantu origin who had an army of only 1 000 guerillas, armed and equipped by Israel and trained by a German mercenary.

The Nilots went along with the agreement, but claim the south has been getting the dirty end of the stick ever since while Mr Lagu, who was immediately given a Sudan Army General's pay, has been selling out the south, and is now Sudan's Vice President.

More specific southern complaints are that Mr Lagu and his Arab allies in Khartoum are now attempting to weaken the south by dividing it into three autonomous regions based on the boundaries of the former colonial provinces of Equatoria, Bahr el Ghazal and Upper Nile; that tight control of the purse strings in Khartoum is curtailing southern development and preventing it trading with its African neighbours; that the north is attempting to Islamicise the predominantly Christian south; and that the south is being robbed of recent oil finds there by Khartoum plans to pipe the crude 1 445 km to a northern Sudanese Red Sea terminal for export.

DIFFERENCES

In a Press interview this year Mr Lagu admitted that his own longstanding differences with the leader of the Nilotic Southern Sudanese, Mr Abel Alier, were the basis of political divisions in the south.

He also confirmed that the incumbent Southern Sudanese President, Mr James Tombura, a leading advocate of the division of the South, is "a Lagu man".

Sudanese President Mr Jaafar Nimeiry, who 12 years ago was being hailed by southerners as their "saviour" for signing the peace agreement against opposition from his militant Arab advisers, is now taking a tough line with the southern rebels.

A recent spate of arrests of Southern Sudanese who oppose his policies has brought the total of southerners in detention to nearly 6 000, including the province's Vice-President Mr Dhol Achuil.

Mr Nimeiry has enlisted the aid of Egypt to fly thousands of troop reinforcements to the south and there is speculation that he now intends to sack the Southern Government, install a military regime and forcibly impose the division of the country into two or three regions.

Observers believe that such a move would inevitably result in the resumption of a full-scale civil war, with the difference that today the Southerners are well armed, having acquired thousands of weapons at bargain prices from Idi Amin's forces when they fled into South Sudan after their defeat in Uganda.

CURRENT POLITICAL, ECONOMIC PROBLEMS OUTLINED

Paris AN-NAHAR ARAB REPORT & MEMO in English No 22, 30 May 83 pp 2-4

[Text]

Sudan's President Jaafar Numeiri was sworn in last week for his third six-year presidential term only a few days after a mutiny by army units in the south of the country. The rebellion was crushed by troops flown in from the north and now takes its place alongside the score of plots and assassination attempts Mr Numeiri has survived since he took power after a bloodless coup in 1969. But Sudan's chronic political and economic problems could still overwhelm the Sudanese president despite the political savvy he has accumulated during 14 years at the helm.

Opposition to President Numeiri may lack a focus, but it is far more widespread than is suggested by the figure of 99.6 per cent of the votes he is reported to have won in a nationwide referendum last month. As Chairman of the Sudanese Socialist Union (SSU), the country's sole legal political organisation, Mr Numeiri was the only candidate for the presidency.

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, Mr Numeiri's principal Arab ally, was on hand for the swearing-in ceremony, which coincided with the first session of the Nile Valley Parliament, one of three joint institutions set up under an integration agreement signed by the two countries last autumn (*An-Nahar Arab Report & MEMO*, October 18, 1982). The assembly with 60 members from each country has no legislative authority, but can issue recommendations for joint action.

In a speech to the new Parliament, President Mubarak praised his host for settling the problem of Sudan's southern region. The south was granted a measure of autonomy under the 1972 Addis Ababa agreement which ended 17 years of civil war between the Muslim north and the Christian or animist Africans of the south. But while the Addis Ababa pact remains one of the main achievements of President Numeiri, himself a Muslim from the north, recent events show that the unity woven in 1972 could easily unravel.

Khartoum's latest response to southern unrest is to divide the region into three provinces, each with a capital: Malakal in the Upper Nile province; Wau in Bahr el-Ghazal; and Juba in Eastern Equatoria. The official news agency *SUNA* said the move was part of President Numeiri's decentralisation policies and was aimed at calming rivalries between southerners. In early 1982, plans to divide the south were dropped because of fierce opposition from the dominant Dinka tribe, which spearheaded the original secession movement. Since then, the work of the regional government led by President Joseph Tombura has been virtually paralysed by opponents of redivision, and by dissident activities which led to the arrest of the southern region's Vice-President Dohl Acuil Aleu and House Speaker Matthew Ubur in March.

The recent mutiny at Bor and Pibor in Jonglei Province was the culmination of a series of incidents, including the murder in January of 13 Arab merchants in Aryat and the refusal of southern soldiers to be posted to the north. Discontent among southern troops can be explained partly by low and infrequent pay, coupled with the soldiers' unwillingness to leave their families and plots of land to serve in what they see as a hostile northern environment. According to one report, they also fear being sent to fight as "volunteers" for Iraq in the war against Iran.

In a speech to the SSU after the mutiny, President Numeiri said that his country was still the target of foreign intervention, though he did not name either Libya or Ethiopia, both blamed in the past for fomenting rebellion in Sudan. Information Minister Mohamed Osman Abusag announced that Israeli-made weapons were among military equipment captured from the rebels, 70 of whom were killed by troops loyal to Khartoum.

The mutiny, described by Mr Abusag as "a form of indiscipline," was symptomatic of the southern region's

malaise, the causes of which must be sought in the long-standing suspicion on the part of southerners that they are being deprived by the north of the benefits of whatever economic development Sudan has been able to achieve. They argue that the Khartoum government has been more interested in promoting Arabic to replace the traditional use of English in southern schools than in fostering the development of the sparsely-populated southern region, which is rich in natural resources, including oil.

The government's decision to site a major oil refinery at Kosti, 275 kilometres south of Khartoum, far from oil fields in southwestern Sudan, caused particular resentment among southerners. The subsequent scrapping of the refinery plans in favour of a pipeline to take the oil direct to an export terminal at Port Sudan did little to soothe anger in the south. Whether President Numeiri's idea of splitting the region into three provinces, each with its own governor, will help deal with the area's political, social and economic problems, remains to be seen. It is regarded with mistrust by many southern leaders.

In fairness to President Numeiri, however, it must be said that his government's freedom of action is severely limited by economic constraints. With foreign debts of \$7.5-7.8 billion and chronic trade deficits, Sudan is heavily dependent on foreign aid donors such as the International Monetary Fund, Saudi Arabia and a group of Western industrialised countries. Last year's major devaluation of the Sudanese pound was implemented at the insistence of the IMF (*An-Nahar Arab Report & MEMO*, November 15 and 22).

The choice of a pipeline instead of a refinery was dictated by a shortage of foreign exchange so severe that the government rarely has enough money to meet the country's oil requirements for more than a few weeks ahead, while foreign suppliers frequently complain of payment delays. Last week, it was reported Khartoum had decided to close down 22 of its embassies and recall its diplomats in order to save foreign exchange.

Imports this year will cost an estimated \$1.8 billion against projected export earnings of only \$675 million plus workers' remittances of about \$250 million. Debt servicing alone would have cost some \$500 million this year if creditor nations had not agreed to yet another rescheduling (*An-Nahar Arab Report & MEMO*, February 14).

While part of Sudan's predicament can be attributed to difficulties such as poor communications and lack of infrastructure, bad management and planning have also contributed to its current plight. The richly fertile Gezira farmlands, which are under the direct control of a government agency, saw cotton production fall by half between 1977 and 1981. Yields dropped, acreage under cultivation shrank and irrigation canals silted up because reduced

exports meant a shortage of money with which to buy inputs such as fertilisers, pesticides and machinery. One reason for low output was that farmers were offered no incentive to produce more, since they were all paid equally regardless of their individual contributions. IMF pressure led to a change in the system and farmers are now paid per bale of cotton they produce. Output increased by a third last year and it is expected to grow by another third this year.

Similar difficulties have plagued other ambitious schemes aimed at turning Sudan into the breadbasket of the Arab world, but in the last two years, President Numeiri has heeded IMF urging and begun to steer economic policy away from the old formula of large state corporations and subsidies for consumer goods. Removing subsidies, however, is a delicate process. Last year, subsidies on gasoline, bread and sugar were abolished as a condition imposed by the IMF for the approval of a \$210 million loan. The riots that followed left about 25 dead and led to a major cabinet reshuffle.

Sudan's economy has been further strained by the estimated half a million refugees that have flooded across its borders as a result of conflicts in the neighbouring states of Chad, Ethiopia, Uganda and Zaire — a problem about which Sudan can do little except plead for international assistance.

Sudan's leaders see a few reasons for optimism amid the general economic gloom. They point to the fact that the Kenana sugar project is now producing 75 per cent of the country's requirements, admittedly at a very high cost. In addition, it is hoped that Sudan will be exporting some 50,000 b/d of crude oil by 1985, though it will still have to import refined products now that the refinery project has been dropped. The IMF estimates that oil exports will reduce the balance of payments deficit by \$250 million a year, not enough to do more than dent this year's gap of \$1.6 billion.

In the longer term, Khartoum hopes to benefit from a joint project with Saudi Arabia to explore the bed of the Red Sea for minerals, including iron and gold. It wants to develop other mineral resources such as copper deposits in southwestern Sudan and asbestos in the southeast.

Closer links with Egypt could also aid economic development in Sudan, particularly if the long-cherished and tantalising dream of exploiting the country's enormous potential with a combination of Egyptian manpower and Arab capital could be brought closer. For the moment, however, falling oil revenues and the sheer enormity of Sudan's present economic problems should be enough to discourage idealism on the part of planners who have too frequently held out exaggerated visions of Sudan's economic prospects.

ELECTORAL PROCESS CRITICIZED

London AL-DUSTUR in Arabic No 285, 9 May 83 Supplement p 2

/Text/ An old story circulating in the Sudan that happened during the "Liberal" regime imitates reality in that one of the candidates for Parliament wanted to obtain enough votes to beat his rival, the other candidate. So he had to "devise" a unique program to attract votes because the normal method of doing so at that time depended on winning the sympathy of the voter rather than threatening him. Moreover, the voter was free to choose between the candidates. Hence the candidate made an intensive study of the conditions prevailing in his electoral district and its urgent requirements. His attention was drawn to the fact that a large segment of the voters in his district descended from the Sudanese Fallatah tribe, a tribe whose members had migrated to the Sudan, settled there, and characteristically made long journeys on foot. At one time they walked thousands of miles to discharge the duty of pilgrimage, imitating in this respect the efforts of the early Muslims when the time came to make the pilgrimage to Mecca. They marched along in different parts of the Sudan until they reached Port Sudan. They were then forced to continue the rest of the journey across the Red Sea by boat to Jiddah in Saudi Arabia.

The story goes on to say that when the candidate learned of this characteristic, he did not doubt that the descendants of those who settled in the Sudan embodied the spirit of their ancestors and loved to travel on foot to the Kaaba. He therefore thought of a scheme by which to get their votes. He presented his election program focussed on an aim and a "pressing issue" for the residents of his district. He promised faithfully that he would begin to urge it and carry it out when elected a member of Parliament and that he would not leave the government in peace until it agreed to build a "bridge" linking the two sides of the Red Sea from Port Sudan to Jiddah. This would enable anyone who wanted to perform the pilgrimage rites to walk across the bridge to Saudi Arabia, thereby overcoming the obstacle of the Red Sea without having to use any other means of transportation.

This curious story is being told again in the Sudan during the election campaign for the second term of presidency of the republic, despite the different circumstances surrounding the two stories. In the second story, the candidate does not have a rival and the voters have no choice. Nevertheless, he wants to get many votes. However, there is a problem unrelated to the program that he will propose and to whether the voters accept or reject him. The problem, in brief, is how

can a voter travel from his house or place of work to the voting district that is not very far away? If it is far away, the solution to which the "candidate" in the first story came up with will not work because the matter is now urgent and it is impossible to spend time in thinking about it. Therefore, the new candidate thought of a story somewhat similar to the first story except in practical application. He undertook to provide vehicles and gasoline in all the election districts for a week for those who want to go to the voting places riding a vehicle with fuel! It is a dream difficult to realize in the Sudan at present. Some went out on an "election excursion" enraptured by the car that came "specifically" to transport them and they were absolutely certain that the same car would be waiting to bring them back to where they came from. They were also certain beyond any doubt that no car would be there or that there would be any fuel at the end of this "season." Therefore, some of them wanted to go on an excursion that would not be repeated except on special occasions, with the same kind of story.

5214

CSO: 4504/387

BILL TO COMBAT ILL-GOTTEN GAINS, CORRUPTION RATIFIED

London AL-DUSTUR in Arabic No 285, 9 May 83 Supplement pp 1, 2

/Text/ In its last sessions the Sudanese People's Assembly approved the new draft bill submitted by Yasin 'Umar al-Imam of al-Turabi Society. It seeks to combat "ill-gotten wealth" on the grounds that the old law which dealt with the problem and its amendments from 1969 to the present were not implemented or did not settle the problem of illegitimate wealth. In fact, it was not used to prosecute a single crime in accordance with its provisions. In the opinion of member Yasin, the purpose of the new law is to protect the public service and public funds and to combat ill-gotten and suspicious wealth. Despite the fact that the law was approved as a model for other laws, the questions of some members of the Assembly exposed many issues.

As a result of the debate on this law, some members wanted a review of all the laws previously passed and the conduct of these members was plain. That could be seen in their questions, If the old law, despite its harshness, did not resolve the matter of ill-gotten wealth, what is it that distinguishes the new law as far as content and objectives are concerned? If the earlier law was not used to prosecute a single crime, who is responsible for nullifying it? Assuredly, Yasin 'Umar al-Imam did not find the answers to these questions for a simple reason, namely, his complete realization of the defective situation in which he has a part, for the honorable member of the People's Assembly is from al-Turabi Society and he holds the position of public prosecutor, that is, minister of justice. He is directly responsible for the laws and matters pertaining to their enforcement. Therefore, some members wanted to have an accounting from the office of the public prosecutor or rather (Hasan al-Turabi) about the mechanism whereby the laws and related bills are made and the degree of responsibility of the public prosecutor in nullifying the law. "Some" of the members found an opportunity to raise some questions "outside" the corridors of the People's Assembly! Also, others asked what impelled the al-Turabi Society to propose this law and at this very time.

The answer came from "those who know" that the new law does not seek to combat corruption and quick wealth. Rather, its objective is for it to be used as a means of filling the gaps in the 1964 law and the 1969 amendments. This was in the interest of the al-Turabi Society to which Yasin 'Umar al-Imam belongs. It was to confront other authorities with old loyalties or that which touched upon politics and the struggle over centers of influence. These members add that

the public prosecutor can delay any case relating to quick wealth or corruption long enough to permit the distinguishing features of the case to fade and become obliterated. He can also fervently advocate another case and bring it to trial with decisive proof. These members cite many examples, including well-known names that were not connected until recently with money and wealth such as M. Y., a member of the al-Turabi Society who entered the world of money and became one of the biggest landowners. His four buildings are evidence of that. But what he has concealed is much more. Another member H. 'A. is considered a leader in al-Turabi Society. He is a stockholder in a bank that recently began operations with an amount of money that raised questions and suspicions, especially since the shareholder is a former law instructor and president of a society which is much wealthier now and in a form that the eye cannot miss, not to mention the mind. Another member of the same society wants to monopolize the local market. He insists strongly on heading the commissions that supervise the distribution of consumer goods that have become rare in the local market.

These members assert that the new law will be a creative means of enriching some people and restraining others, especially those who have old or new accounts to settle with the al-Turabi Society and have no authority on whom to rely. Even if they had this "authority," they would try to plunge them into such difficulty that it would become an account whose price would have to be paid later. Are the expectations of these members justified?

To answer this question, there emerges a fact which confirms that illegitimate wealth has become a tangible phenomenon in the Sudan. It is pursued by authorities whom the law protects or who "fix" the law so that it protects them and who make it a means to achieve indirectly what they want. The law is not enforced except in the case of petty violations and actions taken by minor employees and merchants. As for major employees, they are not held criminally responsible. The man in the street, like the political authorities themselves, talks about some manifestations of corruption and misuse of public funds. Indeed, the People's Assembly in a previous session spoke of this phenomenon and sought to interpellate Minister Fatimah 'Abd-al-Mahumd who misappropriated ministry funds. The al-Turabi Society was active in arranging for this interpellation, but the president of the republic did not allow them to harm his minister. The president of the republic surely knew that the purpose of the interpellation was not solicitude for public funds but part of the struggle of the power center which was Fatimah standing against the al-Turabi Society center, despite the fact that they all form a single authority or government.

One of the members asserts that the coming period will bring to light many cases, and in strict order of priority, the presentation of cases of embezzlement and enrichment having a plain nature and not dependent on the political situation will begin to intensify. This will be followed or accompanied by an examination of the cases of a "special" nature for which the law was enacted. Mention has already been made of the restraint placed against the groups opposed to the al-Turabi Society. However, this stage will be accompanied by a clash between "known" quarters for the purpose of coercion and creating an account which will serve the main objective of the law. At that time the minister who is working as a broker and has become famous within the Sudan and abroad will be interrogated. Questions will also be raised about the Ministry of Finance issuing licenses and

tenders for the purchase of buses for Khartoum, tenders for the purchase of Boeing airplanes, financial activity of the regional government in the south, and the wealth of the ministers hostile to the al-Turabi Society, and many more such cases.

As for the cases that cannot be settled, they will be reflected in the activities of the al-Turabi Society and some of the financial institutions that recently became apparent, as well as the real estate and tall buildings that have begun to grow like a cancer in the middle of the capital, raising a million questions about their owners. Were did they get them?

Member (...) says the Assembly's approval of the law of ill-gotten wealth is merely "throwing dust in the eyes." It is not enough to examine the law apart from the other laws closely related to it, for the earlier law and its amendments could have been operative and effective if there had not been "exceptional laws" nullifying the enforcement of any subsequent law. Prosecuting corruption by this law is compounding corruption because its ultimate purpose is not to uproot corruption, but in the best of circumstances it makes some of us point out the hiding places of ill-gotten wealth, despite our knowing that the aeries are surrounded by high walls that the new law will not scale as long as there are other laws dealing with the other side of the problem. When the simplest measures of justice are absent, we will not find anyone who respects the law even if we pass a new law every day. We cannot have a law of state security effective in all respects and then approve the law of ill-gotten wealth. It is a disgraceful contradiction that makes clear the intent of the new law. The member who presented the bill and those who support it previously used the state security law and its harsh restrictions on public freedoms for purposes of political opposition. After the al-Turabi Society and the regime reached a compromise, Member Yasin became one of the defenders of the state security law just as the president of the "Hasan al-Turabi Society" became the first overseer of the law that they opposed in the past and are now satisfied with. So how can we consider the new apart from the secret objective behind it and the fingers that shaped it? Instead of this law, we want a law that reassures the citizen and compels him to point out the places where ill-gotten wealth is kept while he is convinced that it is being enforced.

5214

CSO: 4504/387

BRIEFS

AL-TAYYIB COMMENTS ON UNREST--Maj Gen 'Umar al-Tayyib, vice president of the Sudanese Republic, again charged Libya with trying to undermine security in the southern Sudan by supporting rebellious elements. He expressed dissatisfaction with the trilateral conference between Libya, Ethiopia, and Yemen. However, he asserted that the relations of his country with Ethiopia are improving and that both parties have adopted the principle of dialogue to solve their problems. Moreover, the Sudanese Government has taken strong measures to prevent armed clashes, which are expected to intensify in the rainy season. Maj Gen al-Tayyib visited the southern Sudan to publicize the election campaign for the presidency of the republic and to warn southerners that his government will deal harshly with all efforts at what he described as disturbing security. The movements of the general were marked by great secrecy, especially his unannounced arrival in the city of Rumbek which was recently the scene of antigovernment activities. /Text/ /London AL-DUSTUR in Arabic No 285, 9 May 83 Supplement p 1/ 5214

EXODUS OF PROFESSORS--Because of the effect on Khartoum University of the departure of most of the professors from the Sudan, as previously reported by AL-DUSTUR, the colleges of the university failed to complete the courses at the customary time as stipulated in the university education law. It was deemed necessary to delay the examinations in order to use the summer vacation to complete the courses. However, the examinations will be held when the courses are completed. Fearing the students' reaction to the halting of classes in the colleges, the rector stated that he postponed the order to halt studies (and referred it) to the university council. /Text/ /London AL-DUSTUR in Arabic No 285, 9 May 83 Supplement p 2/ 5214

AMBASSADOR, SECURITY OFFICIAL DISPUTE--The Sudanese ambassador to London Nasr-al-Din Mustafa had violent arguments with the embassy's security officer Rahmi Sulayman. So he packed his bags to return home because the security officer seized the embassy's funds in order to support the security apparatus therein without having pressing reasons for doing so. He neglected the remaining offices of the embassy so they could no longer perform their duties. It appears that the ambassador's complaint to the Sudanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs is no longer useful inasmuch as Rahmi Sulayman is one of the security officers close to the highest political authorities. This means the ambassador is the number two man in the embassy and decisions are made by the security officer. Moreover, Ahmad 'Abd-al-Halim is expected to be appointed as a replacement for the ambassador who did not want to be the number two man in his embassy. /Text/ /London AL-DUSTUR in Arabic No 285, 9 May 83 Supplement p 2/ 5214

FARE HIKE--Workers in the private sector in the Sudan are no longer concerned so much with the monthly salary they receive as they are with the travel allowance as extra pay in view of the rise in the cost of travel to the extent that it has made the government pay a travel allowance greater than what it pays as a fixed salary. The workers whose salary is 40 pounds now need an extra 40 pounds to be able to get to work, especially those who live on the outskirts of the capital. /Text/ /London AL-DUSTUR in Arabic No 285, 9 May 83 Supplement p 3/ 5214

POOR SCHOOL ATTENDANCE--Young school children stay away from school or their teachers come late. This has become a frequent situation in Khartoum's elementary schools where it was once impossible or less common. The teachers do not approve of it on the part of their students nor do the students approve of it on the part of their teachers. But the small children blame their frequent absences from school on transportation. It is the same plea used by teachers to justify their coming late. /Text/ /London AL-DUSTUR in Arabic No 285, 9 May 83 Supplement p 3/ 5214

CSO: 4504/387

POLL PREDICTS ALIGNMENT VICTORY OVER LIKUD IN ELECTION

TAl70837 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 17 Jun 83 p 1

[PORI Poll]

[Text] The Alignment would have won more votes than the Likud if the elections were held in June. This follows the trend that could be observed as early as in the April poll, although the gap between the Alignment and the Likud narrowed in June compared to April. These are the findings of a state-wide public opinion poll conducted by PORI at the invitation of HA-ARETZ during the first week of this month.

The number of people who declared they would vote for the Alignment exceeds those who would vote for the Likud by 2.8 percent. The difference in April stood at 4.1 percent in favor of the Alignment.

The Likud has now dropped beneath the level of votes it got in the elections to the 10th Knesset (37.1 percent), and would only secure 35.8 percent of the electorate now. The percentage of people who declared they would vote for the Alignment (38.6 percent) is higher than the percentage of votes it got in the elections to the 10th Knesset (36.6 percent).

Another glaring fact that emerged from the poll demonstrates the near total elimination of TAMI from the election map. Thus only 0.1 percent proclaimed that they would vote for TAMI, compared to the 2.3 percent who voted for it in the election to the 10th Knesset.

The poll also indicates a substantial rise in the Shinuy movement's power. It is now guaranteed 2.8 percent of the vote, compared to the 1.5 percent it got in the elections to the 10th Knesset.

Some 17.9 percent of those polled were registered as "abstainees" in the poll. That ratio is comprised of 9.2 percent who "do not know" whom they would vote for "were elections held today," 2.9 percent who said they would not vote at all, and 5.8 percent who refused to disclose whom they would vote for.

Below is the breakdown of the poll, compared to the results of the 10th Knesset election results:

	<u>Poll</u>	<u>10th Knesset</u>	<u>Change</u>
Likud	35.8	37.1	-1.3
Alignment	38.6	36.6	+2.0
National Religious Party	4.1	4.9	-0.8
Agudat Yisra'el	3.0	3.7	-0.7
Shinuy	2.8	1.5	+1.3
Citizens Rights Movement	1.1	1.4	-0.3
Tehiya	2.7	2.3	+0.4
TAMI	0.1	2.3	-2.2
Others	6.7	5.6	1.1
Minorities	not polled	4.6	

The poll constitutes a representative cross section of 1,200 men and women age 18 and above eligible to vote, who were interviewed in private throughout the country, with full observance of privacy and confidentiality.

CSO: 4400/395

ATTEMPTS MADE TO FOIL DORON APPOINTMENT TO KNESSET

Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 3 May 83 p 4

[Article by Gad Baqar and Zvi Zinger: "The Agudah and Tehiya Threaten to Foil the Appointment of Sarah Doron"]

[Text] "I feel like someone about whom it was said: 'Maybe we didn't crucify him, but at least we took away his soul' " — MK Sarah Doron said yesterday with a smile. She was supposed to be the sixth minister of the Liberals. This was in the wake of the threat made by MK Avraham Shapira (Agudat Yisrael), at a session of the leadership of the coalition, which discussed the confirmation of her appointment by the Knesset.

MK Shapira said: "We all here want to be nice to you, but the Agudat Yisrael faction will not support your appointment unless we receive an explicit commitment by the Liberals to amend the Law of Return ("Who is a Jew?") and the legislation of a 'Law of Archeology'". "This is not a personal matter. We want to show the Liberal faction that a coalition agreement is something to be honored. We do not want to bring down the government, but we have the means of inflicting pain on it."

Shapira's comments aroused the anger of members of Likud, including MK Roni Milo, who said: "It is impossible to make an accounting on every single issue. No single faction should be able to make a law for itself." He proposed sitting, even all night, to discuss the various problems of the legislation, but without threats of foiling the appointment of Sarah Doron.

The Tehiya faction also joined those who were making threats. It seeks to allow Minister Yuval Ne'eman to resign from his position in the Knesset and the cabinet in order to come after him on the list to get into the Knesset. Tehiya is demanding that the reappointment of Ne'eman as a minister (after his departure from the Knesset) be taken together with the appointment of Sarah Doron.

Roni Milo announced that Likud would not agree to this course, unless the "Norwegian Law" were legislated, which would apply to all factions, and which would enable ministers to conditionally resign from the Knesset.

In the summary of the matter, it was decided to discuss ways of ending the differences and finding a solution, by tomorrow.

Funds Earmarked for the Seas Canal

"If the treasury does not allocate an additional seven million dollars for the purpose of designing the seas canal project, I will be forced to dismantle the 'Seas Canal Co' which is involved in the design and development of the canal". This was stated yesterday by Energy Minister Yitshaq Moda'i during a five hour discussion of this issue in the Economics and Control Committee of the Knesset.

At the Committee for Control Affairs, the discussion focussed on 100 million dollars which were enlisted by means of bonds for the seas canal project. During the discussion, Minister Moda'i produced documents which supported his claim that the funds were enlisted only for this project, and that there was no place for representatives of the treasury to claim that the funds were enlisted for purposes of general development.

A committee member, MK Amri Ron, sharply opposed the whole project. He claimed that the seas canal project could not be carried out, either economically or politically. He said: "Without the collaboration of Jordan, there is no prospect for this vision of putting skin on the bones".

He demanded that within the framework of the opinion which the state comptroller will be asked to give on this issue, the question be examined as to why the government did not accept the recommendations of the parliamentary committee from March of this year. That committee, headed by Yitshaq Rabin, had recommended the exploration of alternative lines to those proposed, in order to make possible collaboration with Jordan.

MK Tamar Eshel praised the project saying that every construction and industrial project in Israel involved a vision and a long-term view.

MK Ariel Weinstein proposed freezing the continued enlistment of funds by bonds for designing the canal, because as of today 100 million dollars have already been raised without any certainty regarding the specific purpose, and this could shake its credibility in the eyes of Jews in the diaspora.

In summary, the committee chairman, MK Avraham Katz-Oz, proposed directing the state comptroller to investigate the matter and to give an opinion to the committee regarding the manner of raising funds for the purpose of designing and building the seas canal.

At the Economic Committee of the Knesset, Energy Minister Moda'i said that the Finance Ministry was a full participant in all of the committees which had dealt with the project, and that only recently had he heard from the director general of the Finance Ministry about the questionable worth of the project, and from the finance minister the determination that the economy could not handle two large projects: the "Lavi" and the seas canal.

The committee chairman MK Gad Ya'agovi said that a speedy completion of the testing stage and primary design of the seas canal project should be made possible. Only after that would the government have to decide on implementing the plan.

Likud Discusses Proposals on Effectiveness

Yesterday, the first day of the summer session, the Likud faction in the Knesset attempted to gird its loins and apply lessons learned.

At the session of the faction leadership, harsh criticisms were made of the performance of faction members in Knesset committees and in the full session. Various proposals were made for improving the situation. Among them were granting the prime minister the authority to end the candidacy of an MK who had not carried out his obligations properly; to send letters to central persons in the branches with an assessment of the activities of MK's.

The session ended without any real resolution.

7075

CSO: 4423/131

NETHERLANDS' ATTITUDE REPORTEDLY ERODING

TA171043 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 17 Jun 83 p 14

[Report by Yehuda Litani in the "Political Diary" column: "Erosion in the Netherlands"]

[Excerpt] Netherlands Foreign Affairs Minister Van Den Broek is expected in Israel early next month. Recently, the Netherlands foreign affairs minister conferred with a delegation of Israeli political correspondents in the Hague. The conversation with the young foreign minister (aged 45) showed the change that has recently occurred in the Netherlands' attitude toward Israel.

At the beginning of the meeting, Den Broek said that because of the traditional good relations between the two countries, he feels free to state quite clearly what his people currently feel toward Israel. He says there is growing criticism of the Israeli cabinet. In the past, he said, we were somewhat one-sided, but this situation has changed, and we are now increasingly taking into greater consideration the Palestinian problem, trying to treat the two sides equally.

But even now, the Netherlands minister said, when I tour the Arab countries, the Arabs argue that I am biased. During my recent visit to Lebanon and the Dutch UNIFIL contingent, I discovered that they were rather frustrated. I could not, he said, discern anti-Israeli sentiments among them, but I did sense annoyance.

The erosion in Israeli-Netherlands relations, Van Den Broek continued, did not result from the change of administration in Israel. It is here in the Netherlands that some change has occurred in the administration's positions. The Israeli invasion of Lebanon a year ago merely served to reinforce that certain change that has been felt in our positions toward you. The epitome of this, the minister said, was during the Sabra and Shatila affair, which caused the public here great concern. At the same time, the minister continued, I declared publicly and unarguably in the Netherlands States General that the fact that it is possible to establish an independent commission of inquiry on that subject is a point to its credit.

Van Den Broek added that the policy change is not manifest in the approval for the PLO to open an office in the Hague. This, he said, was agreed upon by my predecessor from the opposition. The change is manifest in the fact that the head of the Middle East department in the Foreign Affairs Ministry

often meets with the PLO representative. I personally, the Netherlands minister said, do not meet with him because I believe it is enough that he meet with someone from that echelon rather than the ministerial level.

The chairman of the Netherlands States General foreign affairs and defense committee (a member of the opposition Socialist Party), (R. Ther Week) with whom we met later, added that "there is an across the board, leftwing to rightwing consensus in the Netherlands regarding the government policy toward the Middle East. He claimed that "we think about the conflict as one being waged between two parties with equal rights." He claimed that less than two-thirds of the Netherlands people oppose the Begin government, but draw a distinction between the government and the people of Israel.

CSO: 4400/395

INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP STUDIES DISTORTED LEBANON WAR COVERAGE

Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 3 May 83 p 21

[Article by Avinoam Bar-Yosef: "Why Was the Survey of the Lebanon War Distorted"]

[Text] The international workshop on the media during times of war and after which was opened yesterday in Jerusalem, was intended to bring together politicians, journalists, and academic researchers, with the goal of learning the lessons of errors made by all parties in the coverage of combat in Lebanon, in the Falklands, and the negotiations which followed, by comparing this point of view to that in the Vietnam War.

Dr Gabi Shafer, of the Davis Institute for International Relations at the Hebrew University, who was among the organizers, says that the time has come to study how the limit on freedom of the press in Lebanon and especially in the Falklands affected the work of journalists, in comparison to Vietnam, where in fact there was complete freedom for representatives of the media.

The broad estimate today among academics who research the work of military journalists during war is that in Lebanon and the Falklands, the limitations on the coverage stemmed from political considerations of the heads of the countries involved. The question being asked following the accumulated experience is to what extent did the governments and military authorities achieve their primary goals for the purpose of which they limited coverage.

Foreign journalists and members of staffs abroad, who are asked to explain how come in the first days of the Lebanon war such a serious distortion was created in the reporting, both in terms of estimates of damage as well as losses of civilian lives, now tend to put the ball back into the Israeli court. According to foreign journalists posted in Israel, they were not permitted to accompany the IDF forces which invaded Lebanon, and so for the most part their sources of information were hostile -- which caused an imbalance in reporting.

In Israel it is claimed that it is impossible to have foreign journalists running around battle fields in private cars, and that whatever the conditions of their work, it is the duty of the journalists to carefully check the facts and figures before reporting them to the staffs. Another problem which will occupy the workshop participants is how can the journalist who is participating in front line combat expand his point of view, to create a broader and truer picture of the war.

Researchers estimate now that contributing to the distorted picture which was drawn in the opening days of the Lebanon war was the close relationship between foreign reporters in Beirut and factors hostile to Israel, such as the PLO and certain Lebanese groups. Dr Shefer says that this was in particular expressed in the NEW YORK TIMES, THE WASHINGTON POST, and on the television networks NBC, ABC, and CBS, which had a decisive impact on public opinion in the U.S.

The handling by staff of reports from the battle field will be examined this year at another workshop, which will also be held under the aegis of the Institute for Communications and the Davis Institute for International Relations.

The workshop which opened yesterday was intended to examine both the difference in the conduct of journalists and the authorities in reports during negotiations with peace agreements between the parties, after the war, in contrast to the conduct of those same factors during hostilities. For this purpose, the organizers of the workshop, Dr Yehudit Elitzur of the Institute for Communications and Dr Gabi Shefer of the Davis Institute, sought to include in the discussions some of the American political journalists who are presently covering the trip by Secretary of State George Shultz, who is conducting a dialogue between Israel and Lebanon. One of the questions which will be raised is to what extent the politicians use the press to advance negotiations, and what is the role of these reporters, who are guided by Secretary Shultz himself, or by senior officials in the delegation headed by him.

The organizers of the convention have made great efforts to include in the discussions politicians, journalists, and academics, as well as the military censor Lt Gen Yitzhak Shani, and IDF spokesman Ya'akov Even. Dr Shefer emphasizes that not all of these efforts were fruitful, and that foreign reporters who had answered in the affirmative then canceled their participation with the excuse that they had not had enough time to evaluate the problems of coverage of the Lebanon war, and that they want to avoid additional friction with representatives of the Israeli administration.

Several dozen journalists from abroad will attend the series, as well as military journalists from Columbia, Scandinavia, South Africa, Germany, France, Australia, and representatives of CBC in Canada and the CBS network in the U.S.

7075

CSO: 4423/139

VETERANS REFUSE TO WORK, COLLECT UNEMPLOYMENT

Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 3 May 83 p 11

[Article by Avraham Dishon: "5000 Demobilized Soldiers Refuse to Work -- Prefer Unemployment Payments"]

[Text] The phenomenon of demobilized soldiers lacking professions, who refuse to take jobs offered to them at labor bureaus, and prefer to collect unemployment payments has recently become a national plague costing the economy billions of shekels in lost output, and of excess payments to young people who are at the height of their abilities.

According to estimates of the Employment Service, there are today 5000 demobilized soldiers who are collecting unemployment payments, despite the fact that there is an abundance of jobs offered to them in branches of industry, agriculture, and hotels. This may be compared to only 1500 demobilized soldiers who collected unemployment payments a half a year ago.

The growth in the number of demobilized soldiers seeking to collect unemployment benefits points to the absolute failure of the Law of Preferred Employment which went into effect in November 1982 at the initiative of MK Yehudah Perakh. According to this law, every demobilized soldier is entitled to work at a productive job to receive a special grant of 29,760 shekels if he holds that job for at least a half year. The amount of the grant is updated in accordance with changes in the consumer price index.

In spite of the fact that the law defined "productive work" in the broadest sense, and included in it industry, agriculture, hotel work and even working in a service station pumping gas, there are not many young people who are ready to "dirty their hands" for the sake of a 30,000 shekel grant.

It should be noted that the Law of Demobilized Soldiers enables young people who have completed their military service to receive unemployment benefits for a full year, as compared to the half year for the ordinary unemployed. The right of the soldier is absolute, and even if he has no skill he is entitled to refuse to take a job which doesn't suit his liking, and still enjoy the unemployment benefits. In contrast, the ordinary unemployed person loses his right to unemployment benefits if he refuses to take a job appropriate to his skills and ability, or the level of his income prior to becoming unemployed.

In light of these special conditions, many soldiers are making known their refusal to work for the first year after their demobilization.

The heads of the Employment Service are rebelling against this situation in which they are forced to pay unemployment benefits to healthy young people, while at the same time they are receiving many orders for workers in Judea, Samaria, and the Gaza district. In the month of March, there were employed in Israel through the Employment Service 64,000 residents of the territories, as compared to 63,000 in January and only 51,000 a year ago.

Currently, consideration is being given to the possibility of conducting a publicity campaign in the newspapers and on television in order to encourage demobilized soldiers to take jobs.

At the same time it was agreed between the Industrialists Union and the Chief of Manpower Branch of the General Staff that industrialists would be enlisted into a special reserve unit of the Chief Education Officer, and they would offer lectures to soldiers about Israeli industry, and the possibilities of advancing in it, including benefits for new workers. An additional step will be the appointment of two communications officers to the Industrialists Union, and they will try to find appropriate work for demobilized soldiers. If all of these actions do not yield fruit, there will be no alternative to continuing the payment of unemployment benefits to young demobilized soldiers of the IDF, with all of the productive jobs being filled by workers from Judea, Samaria, and Gaza.

7075

CSO: 4423/131

ISRAEL

BRIEFS

ISRAEL-ZAIRE AIR AGREEMENT -- An air agreement was signed between representatives of the Zaire government and Israel in Zaire, within the framework of the summary between Zaire President Mobutu and Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir, during the visit of Minister Shamir in Zaire. The agreement, which was signed at the end of last week, grants El Al and Air Zaire flight rights between the two countries, with landing rights at intermediate points and transit points between the two destinations. In the first stage, El Al will conduct studies to see if it is worthwhile to open a line to Zaire. Study will also be made of the possibilities of integrating the line with other intermediate points in Africa on the way to Zaire, and the possibility of extending the line to South America. The agreement, which was signed by representatives of Israel and Zaire, will go into effect after confirmation by the governments of Israel and Zaire. Participating in the Israeli delegation for negotiations in Zaire were Ambassador Yisrael Bekinschtein, the director of the Civil Air Administration, and representatives of the Israeli Foreign Ministry and El Al. [Text] [Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 2 May 83 p 2] 7075

RECOVERY PLAN FOR NRP -- After 7 hours of discussion, stormy and harsh debate, the "Youth" faction of the NRP decided yesterday not to leave the NRP. The faction is headed by Minister Zevulun Hammer. The young people of the NRP decided on internal elections, while accepting the "recovery" plan for the party, which was submitted to the session by Hammer with an agreement between him and heads of the "Lamifne" faction, Minister Burg and Rafael Natan. According to the recovery plan, the next managing board of the NRP will number 120 persons. Half of them will be elected in internal elections, and the rest will be persons of the national-religious camp who are not associated with existing factions within the NRP, but who are accepted by the national religious public. The agreement on the recovery plan was reached yesterday between Burg and Hammer after hours of discussion before the session of the "Youth" faction. All of this was done in the face of the expected departure of the Matzad faction, headed by MK Haim Drukman, today at noon. At the press conference, Drukman will announce the establishment of Matzad, a single independent list for the Knesset. Hammer's struggle for the acceptance of the recovery plan, with the agreement to go to elections, was difficult, in the face of the many voices within the "Youth" faction which called for leaving the party this week. In the summary of the extended discussion, the faction rejected the proposal of the NRP secretary general, and one of the leaders of the young people, Dani Wermos, not to leave the party but also not to go to elections, as long as the recovery plan, defined as the salvation plan of the NRP, was not implemented. [Text] [Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 2 May 83 p 2] 7075

NEW TV APPOINTMENTS -- A series of new appointments in the news department of the television went into effect yesterday. Mikhael Karpin was appointed editor of Mabat for three months, during which time the post will be advertised. Rafiq Khalebi (who returned from a six-month leave) and Eliezer Ya'ari were appointed deputy editors. It was also decided to establish a desk for labor and welfare affairs, headed by Khanan Azran. There are also new appointments among the reporters: Sari Raz will survey Jerusalem affairs. Judy Lutz -- welfare. Delia Mazor -- fashion and consumerism. Uri Kohen Aharonov -- the police and courts in Jerusalem, and Ofer Teller -- police and courts in Tel Aviv. Giora Tzur was appointed television reporter in the south, and Yarin Kimor -- reporter for air, transportation and communications affairs. At the session in which the appointments were discussed, Ya'akov Ahimeir raised the matter of the temporary suspension of reporter Avi Gut. He asked that consideration be given to his early return to work. The director of the news department, Ya'ir Shatran, rejected the request. Shatran explained to HA'ARETZ that already a year ago it had been recommended that Gut be suspended, although at that time there was consideration and he was left in his position. [Text] [Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 2 May 83 p 3] 7075

REGULATION ON SABBATH BROADCAST -- A television or radio reporter who interviews a religious person on a weekday, will explain to the person interviewed that the interview will be broadcast on Friday evening, if that is the intention. This decision was made yesterday at a meeting of the managing committee of the Broadcasting Authority. The proposal was made by acting director of the Authority, Attorney Micah Yanun, following complaints lodged by persons interviewed whose interviews were broadcast on Friday evening, without their knowing beforehand. The director general of the Authority, Yosef Lapid, the director of television, Tuvia, and the director of the news department, Ya'ir Stern, were opposed to the decision for the reason that it would prevent religious persons from being interviewed, and in many cases this sector of public opinion would not find expression. Micah Yanun criticized the schedule of offices for Jerusalem Day and demanded that it be changed by substituting programs appropriate for that day. Yisrael Peleg demanded a change in the decision to broadcast appeals to settle in Judea and Samaria and the Gaza district for the reason that the whole issue is in dispute. After his demand was rejected, he announced his intent to appeal. Nisim Almog announced that he would consider boycotting sessions of the executive committee for the reason that the assured automatic majority for the coalition was paralyzing the opposition, and preventing serious discussion. [Text] [Tel Aviv HATZOFE in Hebrew 3 May 83 p 1] 7075

FIVE PERCENT RISE IN STAPLES -- Prices of fuel and basic subsidized products were raised last night by 5 percent. Cooking gas rose at a rate of ten percent. Parallel to this, the Water Committee of the Knesset decided to raise water rates by 3 percent, following the increase in electricity rates on 5 April. Following are the new prices of principal products (the old price, in shekels, is in parentheses): bread -- 5.15 (4.90); glass bottle of oil -- 19.90 (18.90); 200 grams of margarine -- 6.75 (6.40); liter of milk -- 12.85 (12.20); cottage cheese -- 15.20 (14.40); butter -- 11.15 (10.60); cheese (9 percent) -- 15.70 (14.90); valley cheese (1 kg) -- 185.00 (176.00); meat -- 140.00 (136.00); frozen chicken -- 92.00 (87.50); number 1 eggs -- 3.20 (3.05); benzine 91 per liter -- 25.30 (25.10); benzine 94 -- 27.80 (26.40); cooking gas (small container -- 343.04 (331.74)). [Text] [Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT 3 May 83 p 1] 7075

IRRIGATION SYSTEM IN SFRY--An Israeli company will carry out agricultural development projects involving millions of dollars in Yugoslavia. Involved is the installation of an irrigation system for corn crops, with the aim of increasing the yield. Eytan Yisre'eli, the director general of the 'Economic Development Company," told MA'ARIV yesterday that his company was asked by the Yugoslav counterpart to design and install irrigation systems over millions of dunams where corn and other crops are grown, mainly for the production of fodder for animal fattening. Mr Yisre'eli said that in the past 4 years Yugoslavia has changed from an importer of grain to an exporter of more than half a million tons of grain per annum. He said the first group of Israeli irrigation experts will depart for Yugoslavia in about a week to plan and carry out installation of the irrigation systems. He added that his company will purchase material in Israel worth millions of dollars for the development work in Yugoslavia, and that this is the first time Israel will carry out agricultural projects in that country. [By Aharon Pri'el] [Text] [TA201057 Tel Aviv MA 'ARIV in Hebrew 20 Jun 83 p 10]

CSO: 4400/395

REPORT ON 1982 ECONOMY PRESENTED

Kuwait AL-SIYASAH in Arabic 3 May 83 p 9

[Article: "The Developments in the Kuwaiti Economy in 1982: A Decrease of 15.2 Percent in the GDP!"]

[Text] In spite of the decline in oil revenues, Kuwait continued the implementation of numerous development projects.

The industrial sector increased its percentage contribution to the GDP.

Economic developments in Kuwait last year were of primary national concern in view of the fact that they were closely involved with a number of the principal sectors of the country's society. The economic report of the Central Bank of Kuwait contains detailed references to the most important of these developments, and we present a summary of them below:

I. The Most Significant Domestic Economic Events

In 1982 the Kuwaiti economy witnessed a number of important events. The most significant of these events were the decline in Kuwait's oil revenues during that year and the emergence of the al-Manakh Stock Market problem which reached its peak during the second half of the year. The economic report [of the Central Bank of Kuwait] deals with the economic details of both of these events, and the following is a presentation of this treatment of these two events:

1. The Decline of Oil Revenues

Kuwaiti oil revenues went down to 2.7 billion dinars in 1982 as compared with 4.1 billion dinars the year before. Nevertheless, the policies adopted by the government in 1982 in the fields of investment, public expenditures, and economic development in general greatly lessened the dangers to the branches of Kuwait's economy brought on by the decline in oil revenues.

As a consequence of the decline in oil revenues and Kuwait's reliance in 1982 on its capital reserves to cover some of the state's commitments, the policy of

diversifying sources of income and becoming increasingly concerned with income from investments gained in importance. In fiscal year 1980/81 income from investments went up to about 1,743,900,000 dinars. However, this income declined 21.8 percent (down to 1.364 billion dinars) during fiscal year 1981/82 because of the withdrawal of public reserves to finance the budget deficit in that fiscal year and in order to honor a number of the state's other obligations. In spite of this decrease, the level achieved by income from investments during fiscal year 1981/82 was approximately equivalent to half of the oil revenues, and it also covered about 36 percent of the total (real) public expenditures of that fiscal year. In view of the government's interest in foreign investments and the income which they bring, in June of 1982 a government body called the General Investment Authority was established and it was given the job of administering Kuwait's financial investments (public reserves and reserves for future generations). The goals of the General Investment Authority include setting a general investment policy, supervising the implementation of this policy, establishing investment programs, following up on the implementation of such programs and making the necessary decisions in this regard.

Due to the decrease in oil revenues, the monetary authorities in Kuwait during the last few years have been oriented in the direction of following a policy of controlling expenditures, particularly during fiscal year 1982/83. The aim of this policy is to limit government expenditures. This is to be done by more efficiently allocating the state's economic resources and obtaining more profit and a greater yield from expenditure appropriations. This policy can help to have the Kuwaiti economy avoid the dangers of expansion of government expenditures and an ensuing decrease in Kuwait's financial reserves if oil revenues continue to decline.

In spite of the decline in oil revenues, Kuwait has continued to implement a number of development projects. The budget for construction projects went up to 603 million dinars in fiscal year 1982/83, which represents an increase of about 2.3 percent. This was done particularly to complete projects being implemented and to implement vital new projects. Appropriations for projects overseen by the Ministry of Electricity and Water totalled about 248.6 million dinars in that year. Also, 24 main transformer stations were constructed in 1982, and implementation began on the al-Zawr electric power station project, the al-Dawah al-Gharbiyah [West Dawhah] electric power station project, and the al-Dawah distillates project in fiscal year 1981/82. General Housing Authority appropriations totalled about 100 million dinars in fiscal year 1982/83, and the appropriations were for building about 5,500 housing units (for people with low incomes and average incomes) to cover the needs of approximately 30,000 citizens. These housing units are located in a number of areas in Kuwait. The government's concern for the housing sector increased when it decided, during the latter part of 1982, to increase the Savings and Credit Bank's capital to 1 billion dinars. Furthermore, since the government has also been interested in expanding and improving health, educational, and other services, it allocated to the Ministry of Public Works 200 million dinars in fiscal year 1982/83 for the purpose of building a number of vital utilities and facilities connected with serving the public.

2. The al-Manakh Stock Market Problem

The al-Manakh Stock Market problem emerged during the latter half of 1982 following the escalation in the wave of speculation in this market which is parallel to the official stock market and following the increase in forward trading transactions involving record-high prices and the issuing of checks connected with these transactions which involved enormous sums of money that were far in excess of the actual financial capabilities of many of the people involved who were dealing in the al-Manakh Stock Market. The volume of financial obligations between parties writing out forward trading transaction checks in the al-Manakh market--that is, their total debts--totalled about 27 billion dinars. The government proceeded to introduce a number of measures for the purpose of dealing with the problem, the following being the most important:

- A. Prohibiting the further establishment of closed corporations.
- B. The establishment of a clearing house company to engage in the job of enumerating all of the forward trading transactions.
- C. The formation of an arbitration body to engage in the job of rendering decisions concerning disputes arising from these transactions
- D. The creation of a fund having a capital of 500 million dinars to guarantee to creditors payment of what is owed to them in cash or in the form of bonds which it issues.

The year 1982 ended without a comprehensive solution being reached for this crisis.

Overcoming the al-Manakh Stock Market problem by means of resolving the situations of those dealing in this market does not mean that a comprehensive solution to the root of the problem has been reached and does not guarantee that the problem will not arise again in the future, unless one takes into consideration a number of things, the most important of which are the following:

- A. The forward trading system was not the only feature which characterized the period of time during which this problem existed. The Ministry of Trade and Industry, in 1974, had already issued a decree prohibiting forward trading transactions because of the unpredictable dangers which they involved.
- B. Avid speculation and feverish escalation of prices both on the securities market and the real estate and land market tend to bring chaos into these markets and cause those dealing in the markets to suffer losses on the one hand, and they also expose the Kuwaiti economy to a number of dangers. One of the most important of these dangers is that of having investments channeled into speculation activities because of the record-high profits which they promise to yield in a relatively short time instead of having these investments channeled into productive economic sectors which require the training of

technical personnel so that the country can achieve necessary economic growth rates and have diversification of sources of income.

C. If such a crisis is repeated in the future, it may occur under conditions which will not allow the government to intervene to give direct or indirect financial backing for the purpose of stimulating the market and having people who deal in the market keep their confidence in it. The reason for this is that oil revenues are continuing to decline.

Warding off the numerous possible dangers that could threaten the Kuwaiti economy in case this problem occurs again in the future will require the introduction of a number of measures and regulations, the most important of which are the following:

A. Regulation of the entire securities market. This includes regulation of the procedures for circulating shares and monitoring share prices in order that they reflect the actual financial conditions of the companies involved and in order that the profit margins involved in the circulation of the shares not exceed proper limits. It is also necessary to develop the securities market and to have it progress from its traditional role to a pioneering role which would involve encouraging domestic investment--as well as Gulf-wide investment at a later stage--and helping to distribute savings among various economic projects.

B. The development and spreading of awareness and consciousness on the part of investors concerning the framework of a comprehensive investment strategy which would channel available investments to production sectors within the framework of Kuwait's investment goals.

C. Continuation of the consolidation of the policy of controlling bank credit, which has the objective of increasing the percentage of programmed loans (loans with specific objectives and maturity dates) in relation to total credit granted--and a simultaneous policy of restricting the scope of loans made for purposes of speculation.

II. The Economic Growth Rate

In spite of the decline in Kuwait's oil production in 1982 and the consequent decrease in the GDP (in terms of current prices) to about 5.737 billion dinars (according to initial estimates made by the Ministry of Planning) as compared with 6.764 billion dinars in 1981--that is, a 15.2 percent decrease from the previous year--the Kuwaiti economy in 1982 achieved a moderate growth rate in the non-oil sectors. This growth rate was 11.9 percent, as compared with 10 percent in 1981. Although the oil sector in 1982 was directly affected by the circumstances of the international oil market and by the worldwide economic recession--total domestic production by Kuwait's oil sector (in terms of current prices) decreased about 32.5 percent from what it was in 1981--the non-oil sectors achieved the growth rate previously alluded to by virtue of the fact that a number of financial and monetary policies were put into practice. These policies included, for example, continuation of the rate of growth in credit granted by commercial banks to the private sector. This growth rate was

about 24 percent in 1982, as compared with 29.5 percent in the previous year. Public expenditures increased about 11.3 percent in fiscal year 1981/82 and about 5.3 percent in fiscal 1982/83. These policies were able to support and finance the activities of the non-oil sectors in 1982, and this led to an increase in the share of these non-oil sectors in the GDP. Their share of the GDP (in terms of current prices) went up from 39 percent in 1981 to 51 percent in 1982. From these developments it is to be concluded that the government is continuing with its efforts to expand Kuwait's production base and to hasten to create diversified sources of income. These are things which will guarantee that petroleum wealth will be converted into a productive economic base which will provide advanced and diversified investment opportunities. Concerning the growth rates of the non-oil sectors during 1982, the latest available data tell us the following:

1. The manufacturing and processing industries sector achieved a growth of 11.6 percent. As a result of this, this sector's share of the GDP went up from 5.5 percent in 1981 to 7.4 percent in 1982. The principal reason for this growth in the manufacturing and processing industries sector in 1982 was the fact that the refining industry achieved tremendous growth during that year (21.7 percent). As a result of this, the percentage of Kuwait's total production accounted for by the petroleum refining industry has gone up from 20 percent in 1980 to 25 percent in 1981 and finally to 41 percent in 1982.

In addition to this, several developments led to the increase in total domestic production by the industrial sector, and they were the following:

- A. The granting of approval by the appropriate authorities for the establishment of 23 new industrial projects involving investments of 44 million dinars (as compared with 37 projects in 1981 involving investments of 34.5 million dinars).

- B. During 1982 licenses were granted for the implementation of plans for expanding 26 existing industrial installations both in terms of increasing production capacity and producing new products. These expansion plans involved investments totalling 16.8 million dinars (as compared with 4.2 million dinars of such investments in 1981). The industries involved here are the industry which produces paraffin (from kerosine), the cement industry, the finished iron industry, and the industry which manufactures bodies of automobiles.

- C. The emergence of numerous new industries which began production operations during 1982. About 16 such new industrial installations started production, and they involved total investments of 17.8 million dinars (as compared with 23 such installations in 1981 involving investments of 9.2 million dinars). These new industries in 1982 included industries that engage in repairing and building ships, paper-manufacturing industries and industries which produce dairy products.

2. The construction industry grew 8.4 percent in 1982, and this growth was accompanied by the following indicators:

A. An increase in the amount of credit granted by commercial banks to this sector, and by the end of 1982 the total amount of such credit was 673.4 million dinars (that is, 17.3 percent more than was the case during the previous year).

B. An increase of about 22 percent in loans granted by the Kuwait Real Estate Bank in 1982 compared with the previous year. Also, real estate loans approved by the Savings and Credit Bank increased about 1,167 percent [as published] during fiscal year 1981/82 (as compared with the previous fiscal year) and this increase totalled approximately 240 million dinars. This increase was approved in order to help citizens taking out loans cope with both the increase in the prices of construction materials and the increase in the cost of constructing, expanding and repairing buildings.

III. The Most Important International Factors Influencing the Kuwaiti Economy

During 1982 the Kuwaiti economy was affected by a number of developments resulting from the international economic situation. The continuation of the economic recession--particularly in the main industrial nations--led to a decrease in world demand for oil for the third year in a row. In 1982 this resulted in a decrease both in Kuwait's oil exports and oil revenues (approximately 34.4 percent).

In spite of the fact that many of the [world's] principal currencies underwent noticeable fluctuations in their exchange rates in 1982, the monetary authorities in Kuwait managed to guarantee a degree of balanced and relative stability for the exchange rate of the dinar as compared with the other currencies. The real exchange rate of the Kuwaiti dinar reached record levels, having gone up 6.4 percent in 1982 from what it was the year before.

In addition to this, the monetary authorities in Kuwait managed to contain the effect of the fluctuations in international interest rates on the Kuwaiti economy in 1982 and managed to maintain relative stability in the general structure of domestic interest rates. This was accomplished by means of regulating domestic liquidity levels in accordance with the demands of the various economic sectors (particularly the production sectors,) especially during the first half of the year when international interest rates rose sharply.

9468

CSO: 4404/366

SUGGESTION OF MAKING THE COUNTRY 'NEUTRAL' TERMED UNWORKABLE

London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic No 1385, 20 May 83 pp 12-13

[Article: "War Is Not Appropriate Solution, Alternative Is Persuasion--of Syria"]

[Text] In connection with the political effort to unify the internal position on acceptable alternatives or ways out of the difficulties and obstacles that a plan to save Lebanon may encounter, some political stands on the basic proposals were clearly defined and discussed in the last few days with some of the leaders after it was announced that a solution had been reached that resembled the proposal for the agreement between Lebanon and Israel.

The most conspicuous result of the debate that took place in the Republic Palace and Parliament and with the prime minister and political leaders was the dialogue between a group of deputies and President Sa'ib Salam on fundamental ideas concerning the future of Lebanon, including the proposal for Lebanon's international neutrality.

The dialogue, which took place in President Salam's home, was marked by candor and clarity in the discussion of the ideas advanced, most prominently the neutrality proposal, the justifications put forward for it, and the legal form that would crystallize its major lines and justify its use.

At the beginning of the discussion, the authors of the neutrality proposal said Lebanon has really begun to move, however slowly, toward accepting the idea of studying proposals the mere mention of which in the past was greeted with rejection and charges that its supporters were isolationist, hiding in shells, and trying to separate Lebanon from its surroundings.

They said the difficulties encountered by Lebanon during the civil war, then the Israeli destruction and occupation, and last but not least the negotiations leading to restoration of the occupied territories without making concessions infringing upon sovereignty necessitated facing the facts with boldness, impartiality, and willingness to examine a number of choices requiring a patriotic united stand for decision, including the proposal for an internationally neutral Lebanon by resolution of the Security Council and United Nations. Its adoption will enable Lebanon to escape from several tight spots, including possible exposure in the future to circumstances which will compel it to sign a peace and reconciliation treaty with Israel or which will transform its territories into an arena for a regional or international struggle, which is the case today as in the past.

These deputies said that using an international model like Swiss or Austrian neutrality will insure Lebanon's permanent stability without requiring it to abandon its identification with its Arab surroundings or surrender its membership in the Arab League, except that it would not be bound by the joint Arab defense pact. Should the situation come to pass, it would result in giving the Arab states an opportunity to benefit in many ways from the advantages of the Lebanese role.

President Sa'ib Salam responded to the talk about alternatives, ways out, and international neutrality by telling the proponents of these ideas that Lebanon's interests, future, and fate are largely dependent on the quality of the options which the Lebanese are willing to use and rally around and that given the experiments, studies and requirements, he does not think that using the Lebanese neutrality proposal or something similar will provide Lebanon with stability, independence, and well-being.

President Salam told the deputies that the international neutrality proposal is full of holes and flaws incompatible with Lebanon's interests. For example, as the president said, Lebanon's internal and regional situation is totally different from that of Switzerland or Austria. Unlike Switzerland which is strong with its security systems, Lebanon does not possess even today domestic forces capable of imposing or protecting and assuring the application of the neutrality formula rejected in the regional environment.

Switzerland did not impose its neutrality on its surroundings. On the contrary, neutrality chose it and came to it by the European will which agreed that it was in the interest of European states that Switzerland be transformed into a state far from all aspects of the struggle and open to all investment opportunities and the exercise of freedom insulated from the effects of international disputes.

Austria too became neutral by the international will and by world agreement to which the two superpowers gave concrete form. The European environment accepted and supported this so that it could survive.

As for the situation in Lebanon, it is completely different from any other country as far as neutrality is concerned. It needs a strong and cohesive domestic situation and it needs factors that help to strengthen its ties to its environment and not factors that make for alienation and withdrawal. Therefore, neutrality does not solve the problem but places before it and in its path more obstacles, especially since it exists in an environment whose basic elements do not favor its leaving the framework of its commitments and choosing a different path that could take it far from this environment.

President Salam told the deputies after a wide-ranging discussion that the establishment of a stable regime in Lebanon which the Lebanese support would ensure giving Lebanon the role of a neutral state without it being different from its surroundings. The best proof of that is his long experience in government that enabled him during periods of stability and internal harmony to keep aloof from all the Arab and international axes and blocs. Hence the peaceful path that the Lebanese must travel is the path of national unity and

rallying around the legitimate authority to strengthen the government role and bring about a Lebanese presence open to the world and committed to everything that binds Lebanon to its Arab surroundings and friendly states based on its devotion to the principles of independence, sovereignty, and national unity.

Although it was said after this discussion that the backers of the proposal to neutralize Lebanon were convinced of President Salam's viewpoint, they felt that continuing the dialogue with the different political leaders forces them to be flexible in their stands in order to get acceptable alternatives by discussion rather than by imposition. Prominent political and party leaders held fast to the neutrality proposal as an inevitable alternative that Lebanese must debate and use in the future.

A continuation of this trend of thought in the party debates that took place in East Beirut a few days after the discussion in President Salam's home was certain. The extent to which the party insisted on continuing the effort to obtain a political decision on supporting the proposal became evident.

Many party voices were raised to call for a calm and objective debate on the subject by the cabinet and Parliament and among the political blocs but without emotion. Professor Robert 'Abdu Ghanim said in a debate broadcast last Wednesday that Lebanon has no choice but to move toward neutrality as a final solution, that the Lebanese have begun to accept this kind of solution after the bitter trials that they underwent, and that achieving neutrality in a legal sense is not difficult, but what is important and difficult is implementation. This cannot be achieved except by the Lebanese will, persuaded by the soundness of the reasons that impose this kind of search.

Far from the complexities of the political debate related to the difficulties of reaching an agreement with Israel, there have appeared a number of prominent political leaders who have been added to the groundwork for an official search aimed at saving Lebanon from the dangers of the period following the agreement with Israel. It is as though they are not interested in or concerned with the proposals they reject and believe to be impossible to implement according to President Salam's logic, but they appear to be insistent on proceeding toward two main goals on which the fate of Lebanon depends.

The first goal is to obtain agreements guaranteeing military withdrawals from Lebanon without weakening national unity or endangering Lebanon's relationship to its Arab environment or enabling Israel to use the agreement to regain through its terms control over the Lebanese will.

The second goal is to organize a positive discussion, without an intermediary, with Syria, the Palestine resistance, and all the Arab governments to reach a mutual understanding on ordering the affairs of the Lebanese house and enabling Lebanon to regain its complete independence in a form that will not provide Israel with an excuse for remaining in the south or cause the withdrawal agreement to provoke a dispute between brothers and risk the independence and very existence of Lebanon.

It was against this background that a debate took place between President Amin al-Jumayyil, President Shafiq al-Wazzan, and Minister Elie Salim and between some former prime ministers who were invited to the Republican Palace to exchange views on the way to deal with the period following the agreement with Israel.

In talking about the way to deal with the tough Syrian stand in the midst of Lebanese calls, in reaction, urging the state to proceed to compel Syria and the PLO to choose either withdrawal from Lebanon or the call for a hearing before international bodies and compelling Syria and the PLO to withdraw from all the Lebanese territories, President Salam said he was the first to urge the need for Lebanon to go to the UN Security Council to seek help in compelling everyone to withdraw from Lebanon if the withdrawal could not be achieved through negotiations and direct contacts. However, under these circumstances the regime appeals for waiting, patience, and calmness. It believes the doors are not finally closed to having a fraternal and direct dialogue with Syria and with President Hafiz al-Asad himself to explain the reality of the Lebanese position to him and to cooperate with him in facilitating the task of liberating the land and extending sovereignty and legitimacy.

President Salam told Presidents al-Jumayyil and al-Wazzan and Minister Salim that the goal is spurring efforts to overcome the obstacles with the brothers using vision and patience, that the matter requires some time, and that Israel does not have the right to say through its minister of defense that it will not wait more than a few weeks to induce Syria to go along with the withdrawal treaty because the Israeli minister of defense forgets that Lebanon waited more than a year before the last treaty with Israel was concluded.

President Taqi-al-Din al-Sulh said to President al-Jumayyil that dealing with brothers depends in theory on rules that differ completely from those used to overcome difficulties with enemies and that it is up to the regime to open the doors to a positive dialogue for cooperation with Damascus to extend the state's authority to all Lebanese territory and not allow emotions to become dominant or rush to take official stands because the moral always lies hidden in the results and because the main objective is to bring about the withdrawals without permitting them to leave behind in Lebanon the seeds of disputes, aftereffects of divisions, and preconditions.

In awaiting the results of the policy of waiting, patience, and objectively dealing with obstacles, one of the politicians asked President Salam what Lebanon's policy should be in case the policy of dialogue fails and the obstacles are not overcome with something better. His answer was there is no alternative to more patience and avoidance of any rash act. This is the way in which we can get what we cannot get by challenge and provocation. We have been following this policy of patience for many years and we must continue it. When we lose all hope and actually reach an impasse--and I regard this as unlikely even now--we will still have enough time to consider extraordinary solutions. Anything is better than confrontation and war because we have become the most knowledgeable of people about the tragedy of war and

the most understanding of the truth that the big powers know before the small ones, namely, whatever the states going to war can know about the beginning of the battle, they assuredly cannot determine the course of the war or its outcome.

Herein lies the disaster.

5214

CS0: 4404/389

ESTABLISHMENT OF NATIONAL GUARD UNIT PROPOSED

Paris AL-MUSTAQBAL in Arabic No 326, 21 May 83 p 13

[Text] Lebanese President Amin al-Jumayyil raised the possibility of creating a national guard in the mountain region by Lebanese agreement to end the sectarian struggle going on there and to thwart the Israeli scheme for embroiling the country in sectarian conflicts and wars that would lead to fragmentation and partition of the country.

President al-Jumayyil discussed the proposal with the spiritual leaders of the Lebanese sects during a spiritual summit meeting that he called and held in Ba'abda Palace.

President al-Jumayyil informed the spiritual summit that the situation in the mountains is likely to result in more deterioration and explosions. "If we Lebanese do not hurry to end this tragic situation, suppress the sectarian strife there, and be helpful, the partition and fragmentation scheme will be effective and achieve its goal. Our greatest fear is that this bloody sectarian war will spread to other parts of Lebanon and involve other sects as laid out in the scheme."

President al-Jumayyil believes the Lebanese solution is now sufficient: stop the war in the mountains as quickly as possible and create a national guard from the mountain villagers. This guard or what we may call "the army's helpers" is to assume the task of maintaining security in the mountain villages under the command of a Lebanese Army officer.

President al-Jumayyil is convinced that the successful formation of such a national guard is the only way to halt this domestic bloodshed as an interim solution in the shadow of the existing Israeli occupation which meddles in everything that goes on in the mountains, big or small, sectarian or nonsectarian.

Agreement was reached between some officials and former minister Marwan Himadah to complete this Lebanese action and achieve its intended purpose. Himadah was sent to Damascus to meet with Walid Junblatt and invite him to return to Lebanon to participate in the effort to relieve the situation in the mountains.

Well-informed sources said that Marwan did not succeed in his mission because the answer he brought back and told to those concerned was negative. The reason is that Walid Junblatt set as a condition for his return and participation in the effort that this will lead both to a political agreement in the mountains and to acceptance of the memorandum of Druze demands that had previously been presented to the president of the republic. These conditions were regarded as unacceptable and impossible to satisfy under the current circumstances because the search for a political solution in the mountains is not feasible given the presence of the Israeli occupation authority and because the president of the republic cannot accept at this particular time all the demands since that would be likely to upset the other Lebanese sects.

5214

CSO: 4404/389

PRICE PROTECTION OFFICIAL COMMENTS ON VARIOUS CONSUMER ISSUES

Jiddah 'UKAZ in Arabic 23 Apr 38 p 5

/Article by 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Khanin and 'Abd-al-Majid al-'Amri: "Salih al-'Uwayn, the Director General of Consumer Protection: Investment Abroad Is Riskless and We Do Not Encourage It"/

/Text/ Mr Salih ibn Rashid al-'Uwayn, the director general of consumer protection, spoke over the telephone in 'UKAZ's office in Riyadh, about citizens' requests for information on Acts of Commercial fraud, price setting, people's price speculation, spare parts and their pricing and supply, and agricultural and livestock products. Many requests for information came over 'UKAZ's phone, and Mr al-'Uwayn answered them.

Misleading Information on Video Equipment

A citizen: An electric company that specializes in electric equipment and sales- we bought a video system from it. On a metal strip on the back of the system was written "220-110 volts" and "50-60 cycles." The electric company in Mecca changed the cycles, shifting them from 50 to 60, and the equipment did not work with the new change. That means that what was written on the back of it is not correct, that is, that it works on just 50 cycles. How can you protect us from such fraud?

Al-Uwayn: Electrical equipment throughout the kingdom operates on 60 cycles, but there are some towns that operate on 50 cycles, including Mecca, Buraydah, Ha'il and some towns in the north of the kingdom.

We have permitted equipment operating on 50 and 60 cycles to come into the country in order to respond to the needs of citizens in these areas. On that basis, we have issued instructions the gist of which is that electric equipment that operates on 50 cycles must not be supplied in towns where the electricity operates on 60 cycles, and that every owner of a shop in which this sort of equipment is located must undertake to remove it from his shop and offer it in towns which operate on 50 cycles. If any merchant happens to sell it to citizens in a town where the electricity operates on 60 cycles, the shopowner will be ordered to take it back and return its price to the citizen. We have informed the Chamber of Commerce of this, have published

these instructions in the newspapers, have informed the merchants of them, have stated in the instructions that all merchants must commit themselves to that, and have warned them that they should not offer 50-cycle equipment for example in a town that operates on 60 cycles, and that they should take back the equipment that had previously been sold. This is as far as cycles go.

To set down misleading information is fraud and deception. In Mecca there is a branch of the Ministry of Commerce, and you can go there and present the matter to it. The people there will carry out the necessary measures.

Commodity Pricing

Naji al-'Ilwani, from Yanbu' al-Bahr: Is price setting one of the areas of competence of the Ministry of Commerce?

Al-'Uwayn: Commodities and pricing are always two areas where there are complaints on the part of consumers. Regarding this subject, I would like to clarify a point, or, more properly, specific points. These are that pricing can be broken down into a number of categories.

First, supply commodities. Payment is made for these by the government in the form of subsidies. The Ministry of Commerce sets the prices for these.

Second, commodities produced locally. The prices on these are set by the Ministry of Industry.

Third, some agricultural products. The prices on these are set by the Ministry of Agriculture.

After that, we must conduct surveillance over prices, arrest violators, conduct investigations into them and prosecute them. Other commodities such as clothes, shoes, spare parts and all other commodities are left to supply and demand, and our responsibility in the Ministry of Commerce starts when fraud or blatant overcharging in prices occurs.

I would like to point out that in order for us to protect the consumer from overcharging, the citizen must cooperate with us in this area so that he and other consumers can obtain good commodities at appropriate prices.

Fraud Is Not One of Our Areas of Competence

Ahmad al-Suqaybi:

A person came to me and three of my colleagues and asked us for 10,000 riyals to bring us a car. We then gave him the amount, but after 3 months it became apparent that he had committed fraud, and we could not find him. What is your opinion on this?

Al-'Uwayn: On the basis of your question, you have stated that that person who came to you committed fraud. This type of fraud is not one of our areas

of competence and the Consumer Protection Department does not have the responsibility of looking for that person or his likes. You will have to inform the police, and our brothers there will carry out the necessary measures for you.

'Abd-al-Latif Yusuf al-Mubarak, al-Hufuf:

Why aren't special, fixed prices set for professional work?

Al-'Uwayn: Professional work is not one of our areas of competence; rather, the responsibility for that lies with the municipality. However, that does not prevent us from joining committees which are assigned to set out pricing. Oversight over the execution of this pricing is an area of jurisdiction of other government bodies.

Price Surveillance in Bishah

Muhammad Hasan Abu Zayd, Bishah:

Complaints were published some time ago in the newspaper 'UKAZ on the price increases in Bishah and the fact that they differ from shop to shop. What have you done in this regard?

Al-'Uwayn: We have read what was published in the 'UKAZ newspaper, and we have a representative in the province as well as a body to control commercial fraud in Bishah which is assigned the task of surveillance in Bishah. We sent the governor a cable to assign this body to control such violations, and others like them, as well as to conduct surveillance over commodities and ascertain their condition. We asked the governor to monitor this committee so that it will cover the whole Province of Bishah, and you will see the results soon. I also ask you, and all citizens in Bishah, to get in touch with the body concerning any fraud or existence of rotten goods, or goods that are not fit for use, that you observe, so that we can eliminate fraud and the like. As regards what has been published, we are monitoring it and are monitoring the complaints that are being published in the papers or through personal contact.

We Recommend Domestic Investment

Muhammad al-Jal'ud:

One organization has announced shares in the Ibn Sina' Hospital in Cairo. Could we have some guidance from you on this matter for the citizens?

Al-'Uwayn: As far as investing abroad goes, that is something which we in the Ministry of Commerce do not recommend. Citizens are free, the opportunities for investment in the kingdom are very numerous, and the government gives loans and aid in all these areas; why should we resort to investing our money abroad? This is reckless and we do not allow any foreign organization to advertise its request for Saudi shareholders. What we do permit it to do is ask just the people from its own country who have come to the kingdom.

/Question/ However, Mr. Salih, this declaration was advertised in a local paper.

Al-'Uwayn: It would be better if all the documentation and a copy of the advertisement in the paper came to the office; then we will resolve the matter, God willing. I would like to draw attention to the fact that we have warned officials in the papers not to publish this sort of thing, in order to protect citizens from these advertisements, most of which are harmful to the shareholders. Let me repeat once again that domestic participation and domestic investment should now be considered better than that abroad; it is not in our interests or in the interests of our country to invest our money abroad and it is reckless.

No Pricing; Just Oversight

Nayif al-'Utaybi:

There is no pricing in spare parts for cars, nor is there any pricing in body shops. What comments do you have?

Al-'Uwayn: As far as spare parts are concerned, the shop owner is requested to put the special set prices on every commodity as it is offered. As far as the fact that they are not priced by us goes, that is another matter. We have not specified set prices for them, and there is no intention of doing so. There are a number of considerations for this, very many, among them the fact that they do not consist of just one part, a single model or a single category; in the kingdom there are dozens of models and dozens of types of categories, and each car has a number of parts which differ from car to car. However, when we ascertain that excessively high prices are set, because the prices are below the sales prices in other shops, but the materials are of the same production and the same type, and are not imitations, we prosecute those people for this sort of violation. As far as the owners of workshops go, we do not set their prices, because theirs are professional activities, and it is hard to set special prices on professional work, because of the different problems and maintenance work, the volume and proliferation of it, and other reasons.

A Committee To Price Body Work

A question from a citizen who says:

As far as the owners of shops and welders go, there is a simple recommendation, and that is, why shouldn't there be cooperation in setting up a special committee which will oversee welding prices?

Al-'Uwayn: We thank you for this recommendation and inform you that there is a similar study and recommendation on the formation of a committee comprising the municipality, the training and vocational preparation center, other government bodies, and the senior figure in the profession. This committee listens to citizens' complaints on body work prices and ways for dealing with that. Here, however, I encourage citizens not to hasten to present their car

for repairs, if they find that the price is fantastic and very high; they must present it to a number of shops and seek out the appropriate price. We have managed to restore some citizens' rights after finding that the price demanded of them was very high, and the whole price was not called for. The municipalities have a large part to play in dealing with citizens' complaints in this area, as do the senior men in the profession.

Decrees Regarding Gold

Khalid al-Khalid, Khamis Mushayt:

We hear a great deal about gold fraud in the market, and the fact that we cannot tell the difference between gold that is fake and real gold. What has the Consumer Protection Department done to protect us from that?

Al-'Uwayn: His excellency the minister of commerce has issued a decree in which he has specified the gold content that is allowed to be present on the market. Anything that is unstamped will be destroyed and broken, and the person selling it will be prosecuted. As the same time, we have inspectors going around the gold markets, making sure that there are stamps on the gold and that the owner of the shop is meeting the conditions his excellency the minister of commerce issued. In addition to that, I can point out that the senior goldsmiths cooperate with us, in that they do not allow any merchant to offer gold which has not been stamped. We have also warned the owners of shops not to buy any gold until it is presented to a senior goldsmith, and, if the senior goldsmith has doubts about that gold-- whether its true gold content is not established, or it has been fraudulently manufactured--he will send it to us to ascertain its soundness in the laboratory, and the person who owned it and tried to sell it will be prosecuted. We are also now seeking to have a government stamp put on anything that is manufactured or imported after it has been confirmed and inspected. The official government stamp will be put on it, and that will happen soon, God willing.

You Have the Right To Buy

/Question/ I have a GMC Superman sedan which I brought from al-Dammam to Jiddah. When I asked for a spare part from Jiddah, I was surprised when some brothers in its agency in Jiddah said "Buy from the agent who sold it to you." They say "We have the spare part here but we will sell it only to the people who buy from us." Is that proper?

Al-'Uwayn: The agent in Jiddah who sells GMC sedans is compelled to sell you spare parts and maintain your car, even if you did not buy it from him; you can refer to the Ministry of Commerce branch in Jiddah, as I am sure that they will solve your problem and you will meet with every response from them.

In this area, there has been coordination between the Ministry of Commerce and the General Motors Company so that any vehicle produced by the company and any agent in the kingdom is bound to maintain it and provide spare parts for its owner, on condition that that be of a model that he sells and maintains, even if the car was not bought from the agent himself, because it is

not reasonable for the citizen to go from the far west to the far east of the kingdom or vice versa to set the person who sold him the car to take charge of keeping it up and providing spare parts for it. We have compelled the company to advertise in all papers in the kingdom and, on more than one occasion, to warn citizens. That has actually been done, and that was 2 years ago.

Hamid al-'Ayyaman, Riyadh:

Women who sell gold in the markets--is there any oversight over them?

Al-'Uwayn: The municipalities are responsible for the regulation of the markets and consequently the presence of men or women selling out on the streets or in the middle of the road obstructs traffic and is therefore prohibited. However, some municipalities solved this problem, especially the secretariat of the city of Riyadh, more than once; it disappears, and then it comes back. If the citizens and the owners of all the shops cooperate with the secretariat and do not buy from women, they will disappear; their situation is not healthy, because thieves slip in among them and the stolen goods get lost.

Metalworkers and the High Wages

'Ali al-Saqr, Riyadh:

Metalworkers have reached the peak of fraud and high prices. Have you put a limit to this phenomenon?

Al-'Uwayn: Metalworkers and the matter of the high wages they get are something the Ministry of Commerce is not competent to deal with. I do not believe that any government body deals with this; it is up to the citizens to bargain with them and seek out the best work at the lowest price.

On the subject of fraud in work, I would like to inform you that there are technical committees on civil rights in the towns which review citizens' complaints when employers and contractors have differences. This committee consists of the province and the municipality and seeks the aid of engineers from the Ministry of Works. It deals with many complaints in this area, and their efforts in this area are to be praised.

However, the existence of these sorts of goods in the kingdom's markets is permitted, and they are offered in shops which sell other commodities because they meet the needs of certain citizens. They also meet the needs of children who might go to excess in what they are given.

A Field Study on Maintenance Activities

'Abd-al-Rahman al-'Ubaydi, Riyadh:

We have heard about a price control situation with respect to welders. What about it?

Al-'Uwayn: In general, maintenance wages are excessively high. This type of service still does not wholly respond to the needs of society! We hope that the graduates of training institutes will increase and that the loans that are paid out by the Saudi Credit Fund will help accelerate the solution to this problem. In general, the ministry has asked the Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Riyadh to conduct a field study of this type of service. We have explained to them the reasons why the study was requested. After the study is presented, the Chamber will be asked to form a committee consisting of the Ministry of Commerce, the General Consumer Protection Department, the Ministry of Municipalities, the Ministry of Industry, the Institute of Public Administration, and the Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Riyadh to offer the recommendations the committee considers appropriate for solving this problem.

'Abdallah Sulayman, Shaqra':

Ornaments that resemble gold are being sold in the market, and the ornaments consist of rings and wires, in the form of a deception. What position do you take?

It Is Forbidden To Imitate Gold

Al-'Uwayn: We do not allow ornaments covered with a fine layer of gold, or of 14 carat gold and less, to be displayed in stores that sell gold and jewelry. That is also punishable on grounds that it is aimed at deceiving the consumer. We have cracked down on a number of cases, and persons committing violations are sent over to committees to combat commercial fraud.

Responsibility Concerns Fraud Only

'Abdallah al-Salih 'Unayzah:

Imitation watches have started to become very common in the market, and there is no oversight on your part or on the part of our brothers in the municipalities. Who does the responsibility lie with?

/Answer/ There are cheap watches in the market, meeting the needs of various young people. I bought two for two of my children, and there is nothing against their being in the market. What is prohibited, rather, is for them to be sold to citizens at fantastic prices or for there to be deception about them, on the claim that they are excellent, high quality watches. However, it is true, as the saying goes, that "the price of the goods tells you about them." Consequently neither the Ministry of Commerce nor the municipalities are responsible, unless there is deception or fraud regarding them.

Benefiting from Riyadh's Experience

Sami 'Arab, al-Ta'if:

Is there any oversight on your part over tailors in the al-Ta'if area? The prices are high, and if we bring them a piece of cloth, they beg off on the excuse of time. This is deception on their part. What is your role in this?

Al-'Uwayn: Oversight over the prices of tailors is an area of competence of the municipalities. The secretariat of the city of Riyadh has taken efforts that are to be commended in conducting surveillance over tailors' prices, and it has compelled them to put up a price list and display it in the front of their shop. All that remains is the role of the citizen in informing the branch municipalities of people committing the violations, so that they can take charge of embracing security measures against them. The secretariat of the town of al-Ta'if must benefit from the experience of the secretariat of the city of Riyadh.

A Certificate of Information on Meat

'Abdallah al-Majli, Riyadh-al-Suwaydi:

Rumors are circulated from time to time that frozen and imported meat is slaughtered in the non-Islamic manner. I would like clarification.

Al-'Uwayn: Frozen and imported meat that comes into the kingdom must be accompanied by a certificate issued by a recognized Islamic society in the exporting country, and this certificate must be approved by one of his exalted majesty's embassies, establishing that this quantity of meat has been slaughtered in the Islamic manner. The date of the slaughter and freezing, and the volume of the shipment will be stated on this certificate, and the ministry has made great efforts with exporters and Islamic societies to guarantee that this meat has been slaughtered in the Islamic manner. In addition, the Ministry of Agriculture has made efforts in this area; it does not clear any amount that comes to the kingdom's ports until the veterinary overseer reaffirms that on behalf of the Ministry of Agriculture.

In addition to that, I would like to assert that the instructions impose the condition that the frozen meat, whether it is lamb, beef or chicken, comes to the ports of the kingdom no more than 90 days after it was slaughtered and frozen. The instructions also require that the date of the slaughter of the meat be written down on the meat cans, because those cans are good for 9 months. If it happens that some of the meat has 1 year written down on it, the importers have been informed, through the chambers of commerce, that it is necessary that the meat shipments they receive have 9 months stipulated on them as the period they are good for, and an undertaking will be received from people who import meat stating that the period of validity is 1 year that they are to dispose of it in 9 months or else it will then be destroyed by the ministry's inspector and the municipalities' inspector.

A study is being made of the period in which frozen meat for consumption remains good. The Saudi Arabian Standards and Measurements Authority is carrying out this study; it is expected that it will be completed soon and that the periods the study specifies will be declared. It is expected that the study will conclude that the meat must reach the kingdom's ports within 4 months of the date on which it is slaughtered and frozen, and that the period in which it is fit for consumption will be 10 months. However, that has not yet been approved in a final sense, and the work of the Ministry of Agriculture's

veterinary overseers in the ports, which is to see that the frozen meat arrives in 3 months and that the period of fitness for consumption is just 9 months, as well as that there is a certificate confirming that it has been slaughtered in the Islamic manner, will continue.

Rises in Prices in Yanbu'

Naji al-'Ilwani, Yanbu' al-Bahr:

We in Yanbu' al-Bahr complain about speculation in prices. For example, you can find a small can of Pepsi, whose price is known to be 1 riyal, for 2 riyals. In addition, barbecued chickens go for 15 riyals and large fish also for 200 riyals for 4 kilograms, for instance. Therefore I urge officials in Ministry of Commerce branches to crack down on cases of overpricing there.

Al-'Uwayn: As far as cans of Pepsi go, they are set at 1 riyal in groceries and sales outlets in all towns in the kingdom. In the event it is ascertained that more than the special price, which is 1 riyal, is being charged, there is no doubt that punishments will be meted out to anyone raising the price. As far as the problem of fish and high fish prices goes, their problems have been investigated a number of times, and a number of committees have been formed on this subject. A committee was formed by the Ministry of Commerce, the office of the governor of Mecca Province and the municipality of Jiddah on the possibility of setting out price controls on fish, and it was found that special pricing cannot be set out for fish along which one can proceed all the time, for a number of reasons, among them the fact that the types vary and the fact that they are not present and available in a proper manner at all times. On this basis, fishermen have been subsidized, offered aid and encouraged to fish so that greater amounts will be available. As a result, abundance has been attained in the market; in addition, the fish company is also making large efforts in this area, and I would like to stress that the citizen is the consumer, and therefore the citizen must not insist on a specific type of fish; there are many types of fish and they are available, especially now that the company has started its activity.

As far as the high price of chicken in restaurants goes, I would like to point out that restaurants lie under the jurisdiction and oversight of the municipalities, and you can inform the municipality of this. I hope that you will cooperate with the director of the ministry's office there, our brother 'Abdallah 'Ayyash, and inform him of the observations you have; he will do what he has to.

Tailors Do Not Sell Cloth

Muhammad al-Tha'nan, Riyadh:

Some foreign tailors are selling cloth, as well as failing to commit themselves to specific prices. Is it permissible for them to do that?

Al-'Uwayn: As far as tailoring goes, I would like to point out that as is well known non-Saudis are permitted to engage in this profession, but they

are absolutely prohibited from selling cloth. This is something that is not permitted, and there are instructions from His Royal Highness Prince Nayif ibn 'Abd-al-'Aziz, the minister of the interior, prohibiting them from proceeding to offer or sell cloth in their stores. Members of the profession are just permitted only to engage in the tailoring profession, for example, and are not permitted to deal in cloth used in tailoring. Rather, they are permitted to engage in the profession of tailoring and pursue that only. As far as cracking down on tailoring prices goes, the municipalities are responsible for them and for overseeing them, and not just the tailors but the people in occupations in general. The municipalities are responsible for overseeing their prices, and the matter of their prices. There is a rule which has been issued by His Royal Highness Prince Nayif, the minister of the interior, on the basis of which the governor of the province will call for the formation of a committee in every town, consisting of the branch of the Ministry of Commerce and a representative of the municipality and the office of the governor, and, if the governor of the province approves of that, it will be binding on the municipalities to oversee their prices in accordance with the decisions of the committee. Let us take Riyadh, as an example; you find that the municipality has compelled the owners of the shops to set out the stipulated price lists in the fronts of the stores, and all that is left is the role of the consumer, which is to inform the branch municipalities of persons committing violations.

Some time ago the Saudi Consulting Services Establishment conducted a study in this area, that is, the fact that many shops have been established which offer their output for sale. When a citizen wants to buy a robe, he will act as if he had wanted to buy a shirt or a pair of pants, and the shortage and problems of tailoring will be solved. A number of merchants have conformed to this but the idea has not met with great success, because they used cloth samples that are not very popular with citizens. On this occasion, I call upon people who have money to restudy the notion, develop it, and use good types of cloth which consumers prefer so that it can be more successful.

The Agency Is Bound To Provide Spare Parts

Muhammad al-'Idan, Buraydah:

Is there any oversight over automobile agents as far as spare parts go?

/Answer/ As far as spare parts go, I would like to state to you, and to all our brothers, that anyone importing machinery or equipment is bound to provide spare parts, whether he is an agent or just an importer. However, we do not know whether a given agency is lacking a certain spare part or not. If the agency imports 10 different models of cars of various sizes, and imports heavy machinery and equipment, it will not be easy for us to determine whether the spare parts are available to him or not. Our responsibility does not involve one agency, or two or three or four; there are many agencies in the kingdom, and we therefore learn about spare parts shortages from the complaints of citizens, whether in the general office in Riyadh or in the other branches. When a consumer makes the complaint that spare parts are not

available, we compel the company or agent to provide them, even if it is compelled to remove them and take them off a new car or item of machinery or equipment. In general, the agent is bound to provide spare parts for the consumer. We serve the consumer through his complaints; when a citizen presents a complaint on an agency regarding spare parts, he is benefitting himself, is benefitting other consumers and is informing us that there is a shortage in a given part, and we thereby inform the agent to provide that for him and other consumers.

Testing of Automobile Oils

'Abdallah al-Ghayhab, Riyadh:

I was surprised, on changing the oil in my car, to find the shopowner telling me that the oil in the can was of a type which it was said could be used for 40,000 kilometers at a time. What is your excellency's opinion on the truth of this?

Al-'Uwayn: In reality, we have noticed this oil in the markets and have taken samples of it and sent them to the Riyadh refinery, so that they could inform us whether or not this statement is true. They informed us that the Petrolube Company in Jiddah was technically qualified on this subject and could give the proper opinion. We in turn sent them a can, but have not yet received an answer from them. However, if a person can give a ruling on the basis of his own opinion, I do not believe that that statement is correct, and I think it likely that it is not; however, we would like to ascertain from a competent body which is a scientific one and, as is known, a Saudi company, and there will be no doubt about its opinion. We are awaiting a response. You can be confident that we are anxious about this matter, and thanks for your enthusiasm.

Failing To Exceed the Profit Margin

Sa'ud al-Sahli, al-Kharj:

The prices of some materials, such as metalworking materials, are higher in some shops than others. For example, in one shop we can find one type 3 inches long for 10 riyals and in another one we find one that is twice as expensive. Why this difference in price?

Al-'Uwayn: For this type of commodity, his excellency the minister of commerce has stipulated a profit margin which must not be exceeded, and if there are any shops which exceed that, we will punish them. However, we ask all citizens to inform the department, and here is where awareness, and the role of the aware citizen, become apparent. The consumer must investigate prices in more than one shop before buying, and not pay the price if he feels that the price is high. Indeed, he must leave this shop without investigating /sic/ That is what entices the shopowners and makes them deal irresponsibly with prices and raise them. Once again, let me go back to you and ask all consumers to investigate the price; whenever they find that there is a high price

that is unreasonable in a commodity, they must conduct an investigation. The responsibility of protecting himself on this basic matter, which is to investigate prices and give information on people who charge high prices, lies with the citizen. In addition to that, the source of the commodity might vary.

Surveillance of Local Milk

'Abdallah al-Darwish, al-Ta'if:

Sometimes I observe obvious fraud in powdered milk. Is it permitted by law to visit mills?

/Answer/ You can be sure that milk produced locally is subjected to surveillance. The producer is requested to set out the production date and the date up to which it is good; there are standard specifications. Milk which is processed locally in dairy plants is good for a 3-day period. Milk which is processed locally is good for 5 days. There also is a committee made up of the Ministry of Commerce, the Saudi Arabian Standards and Measurements Authority and the Ministry of Agriculture; they make periodic visits to milk producers and receive three samples from udders, another one from production, and a third when the milk is ready for consumption. Studies are made on these, and in the event there is a difference or fraud which will harm the consumer, or something which is abnormal or in excess of a reasonable percentage, the merchant is prosecuted for that. We prosecuted a milk producer a short time ago and took stern measures against him, and he was not allowed to resume producing until he had met the health conditions that had been demanded of him and had introduced some scientific methods into his production.

Fighting and Overseeing Prices

Another question on the high prices of milk in Riyadh:

Al-'Uwayn: The setting of livestock and agricultural production prices is the responsibility of the Ministry of Agriculture, in terms of the pricing that concerns that production. It is the body that sets the price relative to that production, on this basis. That is done after studies on costs, production and so forth. Our responsibility lies in combatting and overseeing price rises, in addition to our responsibility for combatting fraud. As regards the price rises, in the past 2 or 3 years production has been plentiful; for example eggs which in the past went for 12 riyals now go for 8, after production became plentiful, as with chickens, for example; once domestic chickens became available, exporters' prices dropped and the price of the chicken went to 4 or 5 riyals if its weight was around 1,000 /grams/, in view of the abundant local production, which it is expected will contribute to the disappearance of imported chickens from many shops soon.

Efforts To Lower Meat Prices

'Abdallah Zayd al-Sa'id, Riyadh:

The price of Australian meat, which is sold in the markets at a price of 200 to 250 riyals per sheep, and whose meat is sold in the slaughterhouses and butcher shops for 19 riyals per kilogram, is unreasonable.

/Answer/ You realize that the price of a kilogram of meat slaughtered locally once was 10 riyals, then rose and was set at 19 riyals in circumstances in which sheep were selling for about 500 riyals. Its price has now dropped below what it was earlier, as a result of an abundance of supply, coming to 180 to 250 riyals; naturally, since circumstances have changed, it is necessary that the pricing change. We have taken this matter up and have written His Royal Highness Prince Sulayman ibn 'Abd-al-'Aziz, the governor of Riyadh Province, on this subject, asking his highness to give agreement to a review of the pricing of meat slaughtered locally in Riyadh. For one's information, the price on meat slaughtered locally is set in every town by committees that are formed in the towns, because the price of livestock and sheep differs among Riyadh, al-Dammam and Jiddah, for example. We have written asking his highness to form a committee to review this price, so that the price per kilogram will be in keeping with the price at which sheep is bought. God willing, with the establishment of the livestock company, there will be abundance and consequently a drop in prices will occur. This is what all government bodies are striving to achieve, by giving loans to local producers or giving aid to importers of fodder or facilities to establish companies that will engage in the activity of importing livestock.

Vegetable Pricing Is Not Workable

'Abd-al-Qadir al-'Amri, Buraydah:

Farmers and consumers are oppressed by vegetable prices. The only beneficiaries are the middlemen and the sellers. What is your role, and your opinion, on that, and why aren't prices set out on them?

Al-'Uwayn: Of course, you know that the prices of vegetables fluctuate according to the season. When it is the season to produce tomatoes, for instance, or watermelons, prices at the beginning of the season are high. In addition, we are in a country that imports a great amount of fruit and vegetables of all kinds, and these factors prevent us from setting prices on the fruit and vegetables. In addition, there are other factors that prevent the setting of prices on this category, among them its rapid spoilage, as well as the fact that it is affected by shipment. The government has dealt with the problem at the source, because the reason for high prices is the fact that a commodity is scarce and not available. The government has thought of ways of providing it. It has issued instructions that loans are to be given out to establish greenhouses provided that they produce these categories, if there is no production of them, for example, what is produced in the winter as a result of the greenhouses /but is normally grown/ in the summer. This is one of the means that the citizen will ultimately become aware of, after it becomes widespread and starts to produce. The government has discussed the issue of vegetable pricing a great deal, but it has found that the idea of pricing is not workable and is not practical, but that it is necessary to deal with the problem by providing commodities. The government also gives and offers loans to people who want to establish refrigeration warehouses in production areas, so that it will be possible to store the production when it is abundant, in a manner where it is produced and brought into the market

without damage at the appropriate time, so that the market supply will be constant and uninterrupted. In addition, by expanding the provision of agricultural loans and many other facilities, these will all contribute to an abundance of production. I would also like to inform you that there is a serious study on the establishment of a private company to market agricultural products so that the farmer's role will be to produce and he will devote himself full-time to farming and production, and will have only to deliver his production to this company, which in turn will market at reasonable prices, to be fair to the farmer, and end the problem of marketing. This project is still under study; when it is confirmed that it will be a success, this company will be offered up for stock ownership, and citizens will be able to take part in it.

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CSO: 4404/346

VARIOUS WATER, SEWAGE PROJECTS IN EAST REVIEWED

Jiddah 'UKAZ in Arabic 22 Apr 83 p 3

/Article: "At Total Costs of 5.142 Billion Riyals: 18 Water and Sewer Projects in the Eastern Province"/

/Text/ The total projects which the Department of Water and Sewers in the Eastern Province has awarded in fiscal year 1982-83 came to 18, and work is now underway on these at total costs of 5,142,593,000 riyals.

The director general of the Department of Water and Sewers of the Eastern Province, 'Abdallah al-Babitayn, stated that the ratio of the amount already spent on these projects come to 76 percent, an increase of 48 percent over last year. These projects include the basic assets for the water and sewage projects in the Eastern Province and the expansion projects in the towns of al-Dammam, al-Khubar, al-Jubayl and al-Ahsa', costing 1,799,193,000 riyals, in addition to a number of development projects that are aimed at replacing existing systems with a total length of 80 kilometers at costs of 179,835,000.

He added that the department is also constructing projects on household hook-ups for the towns of al-Dammam and al-Khubar, at total costs of 196,540,000 riyals. Construction will be completed in the coming months. In addition, there is the work on projects to erect six reinforced concrete water towers at the wellsites in the Talal, al-Mazru'iyah, al-'Annud, 77 Plan, al-'Aziziyah, and Petromin plants in the towns of al-Dammam and al-Khubar, and number of other tanks in the new plants; thus, total costs will come to about 27 million riyals.

Al-Babitayn pointed out that the department is also carrying out integrated projects to extend systems that included plants 125, 37 and 84 in the town of al-Dammam, the al-Mutlaq section in al-Khubar, and the al-Khalidiyah, al-Najah, al-Hafirah, al-Mahasin and al-Qadisiyah sections in al-Ahsa', at total costs of 14 million riyals, in addition to the construction of an integrated project for the discharge of sewers and the elimination of marsh water in the villages of al-Qatif, at costs of 577,310,000, and the water and sewer projects in al-Qatif, which the department is now operating and maintaining.

The manager of the Department of Water and Sewers of the Eastern Province declared that the department is continuing to carry out a number of projects

in the al-Ahsa' area to expand the sanitary drainage in the towns of al-Hufuf and al-Mubarraz, at costs of 313,160,000 riyals, and the project to dispose of swamp water in the villages of al-Ahsa' at a cost of 487,341,000 riyals. A sum of 145,488,000 riyals has also been authorized for the construction and maintenance of a water distribution system, pumping stations and water towers in the two towns of al-Khafji.

At the end of his statement, al-Babitayn said that the department's budget for the new fiscal year, 1983-84, contained a number of operating plans and the management, operation and maintenance of all the projects now being carried out.

11887

CSO: 4404/345

VARIOUS ROAD PROJECTS IN KINGDOM REVIEWED

Jiddah 'UKAZ in Arabic 24 Apr 83 p 4

/Article by Muhsin Abu 'Ayshah: "The Ministry of Transportation Carries out Massive Roadbuilding Projects"/

/Text/ The Ministry of Transportation is considered one of the oldest ministries in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. It received much attention from the Late Lamented Majesty King 'Abd-al-'Aziz ibn Sa'ud. With the great resurgence the kingdom has been going through, the number of roads has increased tremendously, to the point where the road system now covers all areas of the kingdom.

In 1975, the Ministry of Transportation was reorganized, continuing to be responsible for roads and bridges and their installations, and starting to supervise land and sea transport and matters related to that.

In view of the enormous size of the projects which the Ministry of Transport is carrying out in harmony with the rapid development steps the country is taking, it has cooperated with a number of specialized international firms, and as well there is the work the agencies that have jurisdiction over design and construction in the ministry carry out. The ministry has also sought to encourage and stimulate the domestic industry of Iraq, in cooperation with about 50 specialized Saudi organizations.

Roads and Bridges

The Ministry of Transportation is carrying out road programs that have the goal of handling the tremendous increase in transportation activity among the various areas of the kingdom and facilitating the movement of the basic services the government performs, in terms of health, education, agriculture, industry, social affairs, tourist activity and so forth, as well as connecting all towns and villages by main roads. The road programs have consisted of three main stages:

1. Completion of the linkup of the main provinces by road systems, taking care to offer connections to the greatest possible number of towns and villages.

2. Expansion and construction of roads, where the traffic and transportation that depend on them require that they have more than one lane or be converted into expressways.

3. The development of services, maintenance and safety facilities on the roads.

Development Plans

In the first development plan, 1970-75, most of the provinces and main towns were linked by paved roads; the total length of the asphalt roads at the end of the plan came to 12,169 kilometers, while the overall length of agricultural roads came to 8,077 kilometers.

At the end of the second development plan, 1975-80, the main and agricultural road projects were completed, with the result that their overall length came to 21,583 kilometers of asphalt roads and 24,186 kilometers of agricultural roads.

In the third development plan, 1980-85, the increase in the length of roads, aside from agricultural roads which were newly constructed in the plan, came to 6,000 kilometers. In addition, improvements were introduced into various existing projects, including the enlargement of some roads, the construction of bridges and mountain routes, and the conversion of some roads into expressways that were in keeping with the increase in traffic.

Expressways

Among the plans to develop roads which the Ministry of Transportation is carrying out, a start was made in the past few years in the construction of a number of expressway projects in areas of high traffic density, including overpasses to facilitate traffic at intersections. The expressways have been provided with all safety facilities such as metal fences extending along the sides and the middle of the road and the necessary traffic signals, along with the construction of parking places for cars in various locations on the roads.

The overall length of the expressways that were built up to mid-1981 came to about 1,000 kilometers.

The program to build expressways included the construction of modern rest-houses with parking areas for cars, small hotels (motels), restaurants, and shops to maintain and serve cars passing along the expressways over a 24-hour period.

The Main Roads

As part of a stage-by-stage program that has the goal of constructing and developing roads and linking up the provinces in the kingdom by integrated systems connecting the various areas of each province to one another, as well as interconnecting the various provinces--in addition to a system of

international roads linking the kingdom to neighboring fraternal countries-- the overall length of the roads that were constructed up to the end of 1981 was about 24,000 kilometers.

Agricultural Roads

In 1954, the Ministry of Transport started to form teams to build agricultural roads with the goal of facilitating communications among villages on the one hand and between rural areas and the nearest systems of main roads on the other.

Serving the Guests of the All-compassionate

The Ministry of Transport has carried out a group of road, bridge and tunnel projects in the holy shrines to make matters convenient for the guests of the all-compassionate and to cope with the constant increase in the numbers of pilgrims coming from all areas of the world.

11887

CSO: 4404/345

BRIEFS

HEALTH PROJECTS IN MEDINA--The total costs of the health projects that have been carried out in the Province of Medina in the fiscal year 1982-83 came to about 78 million riyals. These projects included the complete outfitting of four clinics, in the villages of al-Marba', Abar al-Mashi, Sudayrah and al-Hasanah, as well as the outfitting of a number of hospitals and clinics inside and outside Medina. These projects also included the purchase of a group of first aid vehicles to ensure the transport of patients to the appropriate treatment centers, as well as the erection of a number of items of special cooling equipment in some health affairs warehouses in the province and the construction of an electric plant in the Yanbu' hospital. These projects also include the furnishing of these projects, the furnishing of the health institute in Medina, the installation of modern radiology equipment in the King Fahd Hospital, and the provision of the medicines necessary for all health facilities in Medina Province. /Text/ /Jiddah 'UKAZ in Arabic 24 Apr 83 p 4/ 11887

CSO: 4404/345

POSSIBLE BREACH OF GULF ECONOMIC AGREEMENT DISCUSSED

Paris AL-MUSTAQBAL in Arabic No 328, 4 Jun 83 p 4

[Article: "Emirate Operators Oppose What Third Gulf Summit Conference Confirmed for Work To Implement Economic Agreement Between Gulf States"]

[Text] It seemed clear at the beginning of May that the UAE might create a breach in the Gulf economic agreement, an agreement that would turn the six Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states into a homogeneous economic group.

Officials in the government and trade and industrial operators expressed fear that the agreement would result in injury to the emirates' commercial and industrial interests at a time when the local economic stagnation originating from a decline in oil revenues of at least 50 percent affected these sectors and forced them to cut back on the volume of work.

Some businessmen in the UAE believe the economic agreement was not studied as carefully as it should have been, for it eliminates the economic boundaries between the six states and exposes the commercial and industrial interests to sharp competition with the commercial and industrial interests of Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, and Bahrain, which are older and more experienced locally, regionally, and internationally.

The objections are the following:

(1) The emirates began in 1982 to implement programs requiring the prohibition of non-citizens from carrying on the work of commercial agencies. They are studying the possibility of giving majority ownership of large organizations and private companies to the citizens of the UAE. This radical development followed the operators' claim that the citizens had to be given concessions in order to enable them to benefit from the commercial and industrial resources of their country in the way desired. The economic agreement is about to give the citizens of the Gulf states opportunities equal to those recently obtained by the citizens of the emirates, such as commercial agencies, setting up factories and warehouses, selling land, real estate, and stock shares.

(2) The agreement will boost customs on goods and machines from one to four percent. The result will be a wave of price hikes at a time when the market is very stagnant.

(3) No one consulted the economic operators when the economic agreement was approved last year. This is a major objection not only on the part of the economic operators but by all the gulf chambers of commerce.

A silent crisis arose more than two months ago between the deputy secretary general of the GCC, Dr 'Abdallah al-Quwayz, and the Association of Gulf Chambers of Commerce because the secretary general wanted to contact the chambers separately to urge them to help implement the economic agreement, which left it to the private sector to carry out the largest and most important part of the agreement. These are the joint projects and expansion of the scope of the work to include the six states instead of limiting each private sector itself to limits which cannot be overstepped. The Association of Gulf Chambers of Commerce protested this, demanding that there be no overstepping. It was subsequently agreed that the Association of Gulf Chambers of Commerce would undertake to study proposals for deepening the concept of the joint projects and the "single Gulf region."

This week the Association of Gulf Chambers of Commerce concluded the formulation of final ideas about the agreement and the tasks assigned to the private sectors in what appears to be the beginning of a genuine interaction between the private sectors and the economic secretariat general of the GCC.

Informed sources say that the idea is based on the following:

- (1) Need for economic unity between the Gulf states.
- (2) Need for the creation of a secretariat general for the GCC to consult with the economic unity between the Gulf states.
- (3) Abolishing the economic boundaries gradually and in slow steps planned and determined in advance and extending over many years. This is to allow companies and individuals to adapt to new changes.
- (4) Need to provide an opportunity for the private sectors to participate in the joint Gulf projects.

These major points are more a matter of getting together than of creating points of differences. However, the economic agreement resulted from a political decision and it cannot be withdrawn. Political strategic considerations overcame all special considerations. There wasn't enough time to consult with all the Gulf operators because it would take a long time, perhaps more than two or three years the normal time, not to mention the fact that the agreement was intended to develop an economic philosophy of effective action between neighboring countries or countries that are situated in one region even in the absence of political agreements linking some of them together in order to facilitate the movement of individuals of capital without harming anyone. Moreover, exempting articles produced in the Gulf states from import duties will create a united market likely to increase the economic benefits from all the existing projects in the

Gulf states. As for industrial competition between the Gulf states, it prevailed before the industrial agreement. It is not expected to become sharper as a result of the agreement because there is a tendency for competition to be diminished as much as possible and for duplication to be eliminated and replaced by coordination.

The ministers of finance recently decided to protect the local industries in the Gulf states both from foreign products and from unjurious competition between themselves. They left it to the ministers of industry to determine the methods of reaching this goal.

At any rate, the secretary general of the GCC, 'Abdallah Bisharah, indicated on several occasions that the road to unity is a difficult one and that he did not expect it would be easy to implement the economic agreement.

It must be noted that the third Gulf summit conference held in Manama directed a specially meaningful appeal to the public and private economic operators urging haste in coordinating activities among themselves and implementing what was agreed to. The conference showed its determination to carry out the agreement and surmount the obstacles to doing so whatever the cost.

Observers believe the fourth summit conference, which is to be held in the last quarter of this year, will strive to overcome the difficulties that the economic agreement may encounter.

5214

CSO: 4404/426

TIES WITH SRI LANKA DISCUSSED

Dubayy KHALEEL TIMES in English 5 Jun 83 p 5

[Text]

SRI Lanka offers excellent investment opportunities to the UAE investors, Mr Montague Jayawickreme, the country's Minister for Plantation Industries, told Dubai Chamber of Commerce and Industry yesterday.

Addressing a meeting of the board of the chamber, he said already many ventures were progressing in his country with UAE finance. A very prestigious luxury hotel was being built by Galadari Brothers in Colombo, and as many as three UAE banks, namely, Dubai Bank, Bank of Oman, and Union Bank of Middle East, were operating in the country.

Stating that Sri Lanka offers exciting possibilities in other sectors also, the minister invited a delegation from the chamber to visit the island and meet parties in the private sector for joint ventures.

Mr Hassan Mohammed bin Al Shaikh, the second vice-president of the chamber, who chaired the meeting, welcomed the Sri Lankan delegation. He said that trade between Dubai and Sri Lanka had risen sharply during the past few years. This reflected the greater interest Sri Lankan businessmen were taking in this region.

Mr Jayawickreme said that Sri Lanka was one of the original spon-

sors of the non-aligned movement and it attached great importance to the UAE, where it had upgraded its relations to the ambassadorial level four months ago.

Sri Lanka is the world's second largest producer of tea. Rubber is also being produced in large quantities. Investment in the above two fields, therefore would be particularly welcomed, he said. A free trade zone existed in the country, which offered a host of incentives for UAE businessmen.

Mr Shaikh listed the AGCC accord for coordination of member countries' economies as a significant factor. Trade is totally free in UAE and although the competition is fierce, the market is still good. He hoped that Sri Lankan exports to this region would rise. The customs duty is just one per cent and there were no taxes. He also stressed the attention that the government was paying to industrial and agricultural sectors which had started yielding good results.

The Sri Lankan Ambassador to the UAE, Mr S. Gautamadasa, said a shipping service linked Colombo and Dubai and there were five weekly flights between the two destinations.

Asked by a chamber member whether Dubai businessmen would be allowed to open duty-free shops in Colombo, the minister said that he did not expect problem in this respect.

STOCK EXCHANGE MAY BE ESTABLISHED

Paris AN-NAHAR ARAB REPORT & MEMO in English No 22, 30 May 83 p 8

[Text]

A draft law to establish a stock exchange in the UAE and to regulate the trading of shares in the Emirates is reported to be ready for submission to the cabinet for approval. The law is based upon a feasibility study undertaken by the UAE Central Bank, which has been advised by a high-level committee of local financial experts as well as a team of three international specialists. Earlier reports said the aim is to open the new securities market in September (*An-Nahar Arab Report & MEMO*, January 10).

The UAE daily *Khaleej Times* commented last week that a consensus in favour of setting up a market for securities had been developing in the Emirates for some time. This consensus was based on the perceived need to regulate what is already a growing trade in shares by an increasing number of companies. In the Emirate of Sharjah alone, the newspaper noted, there are 20 firms engaged in trading stocks and shares. "A number of companies with substantial capital is now sufficient to permit the existence of a secondary market for shares, Dubai's daily *Gulf News* reported, but according to the Central Bank study, the secondary market for securities is neither regulated nor efficient and therefore cannot meet an existing demand for shares from citizens of the UAE.

A stock market is seen as a means of channeling the high rate of savings in the UAE into productive investments and to provide *entrepreneurs* with a source for funds. The need for regulated trading in securities is underlined by last year's virtual collapse of Kuwait's unofficial (and unregulated) Souk al-Manakh over-the-counter securities market and authorities there are still clearing up the trail of KD 26 billion (\$91 billion) in post-dated cheques left over from the crash.

CSO: 4400/396

NUCLEAR INSTITUTION TO BE ESTABLISHED

Dubayy KHALEEJ TIMES in English 1 Jun 83 p 1

[Article by Ahmed Hassan]

[Text]

A RESEARCH and training institution for nuclear engineering is expected to be established at the UAE University in Al Ain. University authorities are discussing the proposed institution, which will be the first of its kind in the Arab world, with top United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) officials.

This was disclosed by Mr Akram Qursha, resident representative of the UNDP, in Abu Dhabi yesterday.

The UN representative told Khaleej Times in an exclusive interview, that the UAE university in Al Ain is fully equipped to handle the prestigious nuclear project, which would open a new chapter in the development of the country.

Mr Qursha said that the International Atomic Energy Agency's (IAEA) representative Dr. Bianco who recently visited the UAE will be submitting a report on the feasibility of the project this month. According to Mr Qursha, the nuclear engineering programme would involve many facets of development in the UAE, including medicine, agriculture, industry and above all cheaper and more resourceful supply of energy for desalination of water and production of electricity.

Mr Qursha indicated, that at a later stage the UAE University at Al Ain is also likely to open a special faculty for nuclear technology. He pointed out that commercial use of nuclear energy is gaining ground and the world of tomorrow would turn to nuclear fuel for its needs. The UNDP representative indicated that the costs of producing solar and nuclear energy are nearly

the same although the source for solar energy is infinitely cheaper than that for nuclear energy. However, the practical application costs of nuclear and solar energy are about the same, he stressed.

The UN official also said that currently several oil companies in the UAE are applying nuclear engineering methods in oil prospecting. Nuclear technology is coming in very handy in the development of oil fields, he declared.

Commenting on Dr Bianco's recent visit to the UAE at the invitation of the Ministry of Health, Mr Qursha said that the IAEA official was making an assessment of the radioactive isotopes used in UAE hospitals. He said that Dr Bianco had visited top hospitals in Dubai, Abu Dhabi and Al Ain to determine the application of nuclear engineering in the field of medicine.

Talking about the agricultural uses of nuclear technology Mr Qursha said that techniques, which have been developed to detect fresh water resources are being used in the UAE.

In the development of industry, Mr Qursha indicated that nuclear devices are being used for welding submarine cables and in oil wells. He also pointed out that cheap nuclear energy could be used to operate desalination plants.

In his meetings with university officials last week, the UNDP official found encouraging response from several professors and other administrative personnel. He said the proposed nuclear technology institute would be under the faculty of physics at the university.

Currently, there are two laboratories in the physics department and they are fully equipped to handle initial experiments.

FIVE-YEAR PLAN TO BOOST AGRICULTURE

Dubayy KHALEE.¹ TIMES in English 30 May 83 p 1

[Article by Raman Kapoor]

[Text]

THE UAE ministry of agriculture and fisheries is shortly to work out a five-year plan that would enable it to execute new projects and strengthen existing programmes for achieving self-sufficiency in agricultural production.

A master plan envisages an investment of Dh 1.172 billion, at current costs and employment needs, in the farm sector over a period of 10 years. The average flow of funds to sector has been estimated at an annual rate of Dh 77 million for the first five years, and Dh 157 million for each year of the subsequent five-year phase.

In an interview, Mr Hamad Abdullah Salman, undersecretary in the ministry, said the basic thinking behind the five-year plan would be to formulate a modern concept for farm development in the country and tie it up to the philosophy of integral growth in vital economic sectors. The main obstacles in the way of self-sufficiency in this crucial field would also be studied and strategies would be evolved to give a push to agricultural output, animal husbandry, fisheries and forestry.

Agriculture has achieved much progress during the past year, he said. The total agricultural output touched 444,000 tonnes of which vegetables and fruits accounted for 343,500 tonnes; meat, dairy and poultry 36,200 tonnes; and fisheries 64,300 tonnes. The growth rate in agricultural production has been 233 per cent since 1977. The relative percentage of imports of a wide range of farm products has fallen considerably in the country.

Mr Salman said the country had every opportunity to double its food production if it executed a "pioneering production plan as its ideal." Already there is surplus production in a number of vegetables, which were exported to the tune of 15,000 tonnes last year. The total value of agricultural production in the country has crossed the one-billion dirham mark.

Stating that the government is committed to raising food production to the maximum to achieve self-sufficiency, Mr Salman said every effort would be made to protect natural resources against misuse and overexploitation. The government is keen on raising the living and social standards of the non-urban people so that can have stability in their traditional vocation.

Mr Salman said the total area of arable land in the UAE is 50,000 to 60,000 hectares distributed over the various Emirates, though only about 23,000 hectares are cultivated on a continuous basis. More than 25,000 hectares remain for making forests and jungles, most of these being in Al Ain and Abu Dhabi.

He also revealed that the farmers get no more than 15 per cent of the price paid by the consumer, while the rest is pocketed by distributors and middlemen. This situation, necessitated the formation of a modern farm marketing system and improved packing methods to enhance the income of farmers, he said.

Lack of any local taxation on imported agricultural products, Mr Salman stated, was hitting local producers who find it extremely difficult to withstand the rigours of unequal competition.

EXPORT OF SURPLUS VEGETABLES TO SYRIA, JORDAN

Dubayy KHALEEJ TIMES in English 1 Jun 83 p 3

[Text]

THE UAE has exported a surplus of agricultural products to Jordan and Syria during the current year, according to a report by the United Nations Development Programme.

The report released yesterday said the UAE exported tomatoes, egg-plants, peppercorns and other kinds of vegetables to these states following shortage in their agricultural products as a result of the severe cold weather which hit Syria, Jordan and Lebanon last winter.

The report did not reveal the quantity or the value of the vegetable exports.

Meanwhile, the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries, Mr Saeed Al Raghbani, will hold a meeting in Dubai today to examine the problem of surplus vegetables, produced in the country during winter. The ministry has prepared a study on the subject, suggesting measures to meet the problem.

The meeting will be attended by the Under Secretary of the Ministry of Economy and Commerce, the assistant secretary-general of the UAE Federation of Chambers of Com-

merce and Industry and the director of agriculture department in Al Ain.

Another meeting to be presided over by the Agriculture Under-Secretary, Mr Hamad Salman, will discuss anti-locust measures in the country.

The meeting, which will be held in Dubai today, will be attended by a number of technicians and representatives of air company in charge of spraying.

The agenda includes the working plan of the spraying operation, beginning in some agricultural areas of the country tomorrow.

Farms visited

MR Mohammed Sultan Al Darmaki, Under-Secretary of the Agriculture and Animal Husbandry department in Al Ain, received yesterday the Algerian military information delegation now on a visit to UAE.

Mr Darmaki explained to the delegation the agricultural policy in Al Ain region.

The Algerian delegation yesterday visited Al Ain Municipality, the main plant nursery attached to the gardens department and some farms in the region.—WAM

CSO: 4400/388

NEW REFINERY DISCUSSED

Dubayy KHALEEJ TIMES in English 18 May 83 pp 26,27

[Special report: "Abu Dhabi 83"]

[Text]

THE new Umm Al Nar Refinery, which incorporates the most advanced technology presently employed in only five other refineries in the world, is due for commissioning in June.

The countdown for the commissioning began on April 15 when the flame from the existing refinery, Abu Dhabi's first, was doused.

"The new refinery will be capable of meeting all the requirements of petroleum products in Abu Dhabi emirate and will have a surplus to meet part of the requirements of the other emirates," Mr Mohammad Hamami, the refinery's manager, told the Khaleej Times four days after the shut-down of the old refinery.

The 'old' refinery was commissioned seven years ago. With a capacity of 15,000 barrels a day, it could meet only half of Abu Dhabi's requirements of cooking gas, two grades of petrol (octane 90 and 97), kerosene, diesel and fuel oil.

The crude oil feed was derived from onshore the emirate's oil fields in the Western Region pumped across the 120-km distance through an 8-inch pipeline.

Today an 18-inch pipeline capable of delivering up to

85,000 barrels a day has been commissioned. This was an old gas line which has been modified for the expanded refinery.

The first oil flow through the pipeline was conducted in March this year when a new tank farm capable of storing 215,000 cubic metres was already on the island.

Ahead of schedule

The new refinery and the oil jetty attached to it have cost about 300 million dollars and involved the technical skills of French, British and Indian engineers and technicians, all of them working under a 15-member ADNOC project team.

The French Institute of Petroleum supplied the patented technology, the British firm of Kellogg did the engineering designs and supervision, and the Indian firm of Dodsai erected the plant.

"We are now running ahead of schedule by one month and have faced no problems in putting up the plant. To ensure there are no problems in operation we have associated the operational personnel closely during installation," says Mr Yousuf Al Mudaiheem, a 34-year-old UAE national

who bears full overall responsibility of the plant as Project Manager for Umm Al Nar Refinery.

The plant, which took 30 months to erect, comprises six main processing units, four water treatment and other utilities and is linked to a fully automated oil handling jetty.

The technological innovation lies in the main processing unit which produces the finer grades of gasoline, kerosene and diesel. In this unit, the catalyst which activates the dispersal of hydrocarbons into various streams gets enriched even while the process is going on.

A portion of the catalyst is routed out of the reactor and deposited in a regenerator where carbon accumulation is removed. After a 12-hour stay in the regenerator the catalyst is returned to the reactor as fresh catalyst.

Conventional refineries have to be closed down for up to 40 days in a year to regenerate the carbon accumulated catalyst and maintain the unit. According to Mr Hamami, the new refinery will need no more than 20 days for maintenance in a year and will yield more of the higher grades of products

from the same amount of feed-stock. This IIP technology is presently used in five refineries around the world.

The other modern technological inputs into the plant are fully computerised controls and an electropneumatic instrumentation system. This has reduced the requirement of operational staff which now numbers 500.

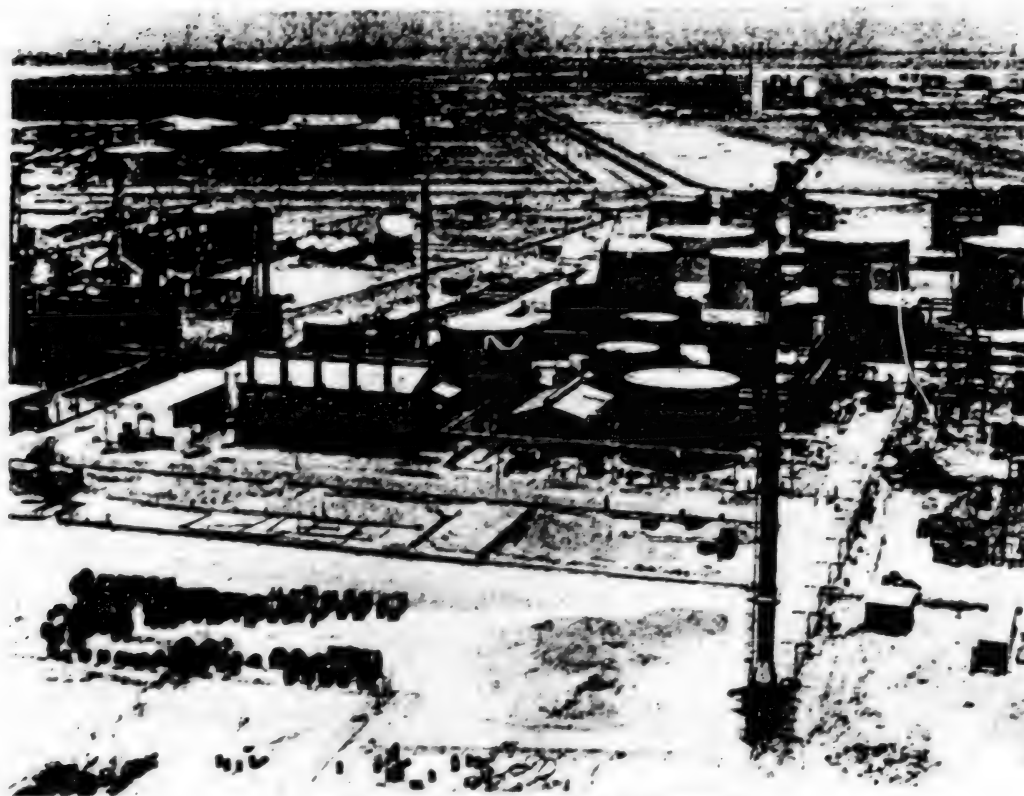
The old refinery, with a capacity of just 15,000 barrels a day, is expected to last one year. Though small and often described as an anachronism before its time, it has served ADNOC in building up a cadre of refinery technicians. The best of these were picked out for the Ruwais Refinery, and Mr Hamami now has the job of training a fresh batch.

Of the 500 staff in the refinery, UAE nationals account for about 20 per cent, other Gulf states citizens about 15 per cent, other Arabs about 55 per

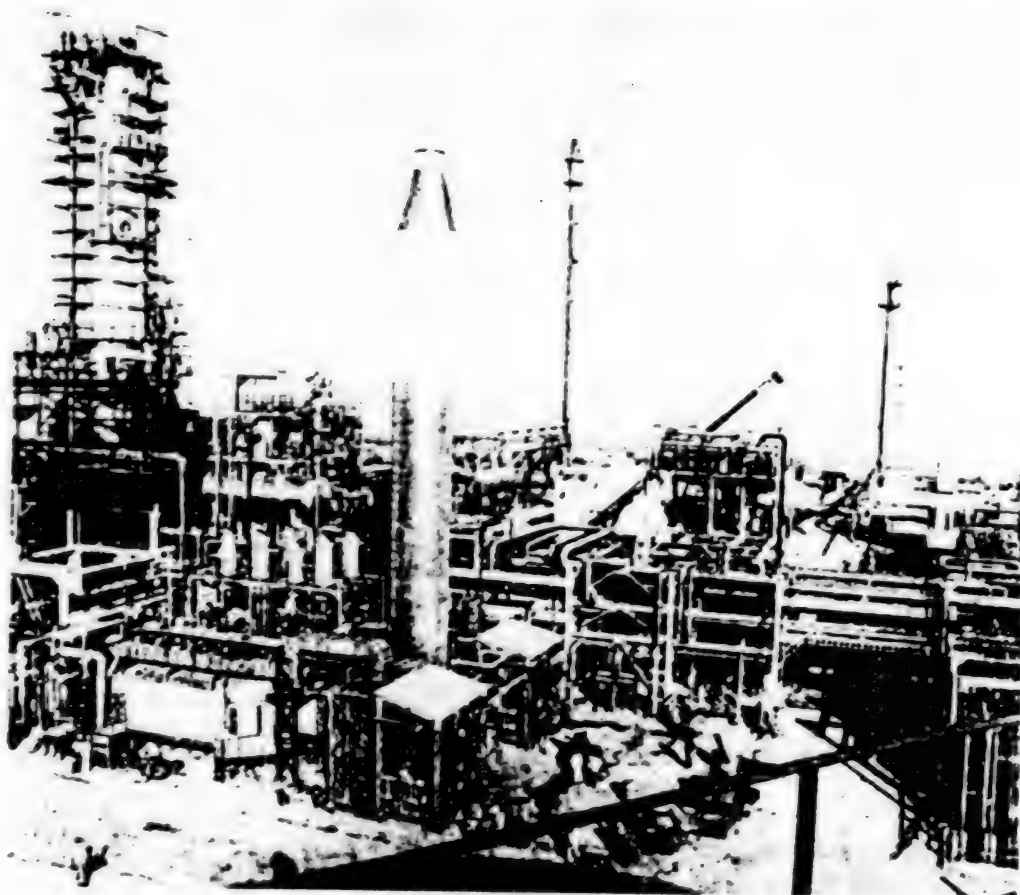
cent and Asians about 10 per cent. The senior-most UAE nationals among them are the Administration Superintendent Abdulla Suleiman and Maintenance Superintendent Mohammad Abdulla. Both these positions fall immediately below that of the refinery's boss.

The new refinery which will process 60,000 barrels a day is scheduled to go on full steam within one month of its commissioning, thereby reducing the burden of domestic supplies from Ruwais.

Piped supplies of the refinery's products reach out to Al Ain and Abu Dhabi International Airport. Abu Dhabi city and suburbs are served through road tankers from ADNOC-FOD depot adjacent to the refinery. And the building of the oil jetty capable of taking sea vessels up to 20,000 dwt will ensure supplies to the northern emirates. —Ali Ishrati



Umm Al Nar refinery under construction



North side of the utility plant

CSO: 4400/388

BRIEFS

TRADE WITH FRG--A West German said yesterday that the trade balance between the Emirates and the Federal Republic of Germany achieved a balance for the first time last year. Helmut Rau, West German Charge d'Affaires, in a statement on the eve of 34th anniversary of the Federal Republic of Germany, said the value of the UAE exports to his country in 1982 stood at DM 1.573 billion, ninety-seven per cent of the export was oil. According to Mr Rau, the UAE imports from Germany were DM 1.754 billion during the same period. Imports included electric appliance, vehicles and machines. He also said the trade co-operation between his country and the UAE was flourishing year after years. He also spoke about cultural relations between Germany and the Arab states with special emphasis on the learning of Arabic in West German universities.--WAM [Text] [Dubayy KHALEEJ TIMES in English 23 May 83 p 13]

SHARIQAH OIL PRODUCTION--His Highness Shaikh Sultan bin Mohamed Al Qasimi, Member of the Supreme Council and Ruler of Sharjah, yesterday signed a contract doubling oil production in the Sejaa oil field operated by Amoco, an affiliate of the Standard Oil Indiana Company. According to the contract six additional wells will be drilled in the next 15 months and the capacity of the gas processing installations will be increased to 500 million cubic feet of gas daily to enable them to extract 55,000 barrels of condensed gas per day. The Sejaa oil field's current production stands at 27,500 barrels a day. The Emirates General Petroleum Corporation is currently extending pipelines from Sejaa to Alliya power station in Sharjah as well as extending pipelines to other power distribution stations in the Northern Emirates. Since the exploration of Field No. 1 at Sejaa in December 1980 Amoco has drilled seven wells which started production in July 1982. The signing ceremony was attended by Ahmed bin Sultan Al Qasimi, Minister of State and head of the Sharjah Petroleum and Mineral Resources Department, and John Nejin, president of the board of directors of Standard Oil Indiana Company. Meanwhile, Shaikh Sultan yesterday received Saudi Ambassador Saleh S. Alfouzan, who extended to him an invitation to visit Saudi Arabia. Shaikh Sultan accepted the invitation and the date of the visit will be fixed later. Shaikh Sultan also received British consul-general in Dubai Peter Hinchcliffe who handed him a personal message from British Foreign Secretary Francis Pym.--WAM [Text] [Dubayy KHALEEJ TIMES in English 30 May 83 p 1]

OIL CONTAMINATED FISH--The Dubai Municipality yesterday destroyed two tons of fish, caught outside the country's territorial waters, as it was found to have

been contaminated by the oil slick. This was stated by Mr Kamal Hamza, director of Dubai Municipality. He has, however, assured the people that the fish available in the markets is not contaminated and is fit for consumption. Orders have also been issued to intensify checking of fish in Dubai markets and of fishing boats to prevent contaminated fish from being sold, he added.--WAM [Text] [Dubayy KHALEEJ TIMES in English 3 Jun 83 p 1]

NEW AIRPORT FOR 1986--Construction has begun on a new international airport in the city of Al-Ain, the fifth in the United Arab Emirates. Construction, at a cost of 1,000m dirhams (about \$275m), is expected to be finished in 1986. Twenty months will be needed for the first stage, which involves levelling operations in the mountainous area. The second stage is asphaltting the runways and building maintenance hangars. Airport authorities are projecting one million passengers annually. The UAE's other airports are Abu Dhabi, Dubai, Sharjah and Ras al-Khaimah.--DPA [Text] [Doha WEEKLY GULF TIMES in English 9-10 Jun 83 p 4]

LIQUEFIED NATURAL GAS FOR FUEL--The Emirates General Petroleum Corporation is reported to be carrying out feasibility studies to introduce liquefied natural gas (LNG) as fuel for local motorists. The Emirates Gas Company of Dubai, which currently provides butane and propane for industrial and domestic use is likely to play an important part in developing natural gas as consumption fuel. According to sources at the ministry of petroleum and mineral resources, this is being considered a major step to conserve petrol in the country. It is pointed out that Japan, Holland and some other countries have switched over to the cheaper natural gas fuel, specially for heavy trucks, buses and taxis as compared to the conventional petrol which is more expensive. Mr Hussain Sultan, a director on the board of the Dubai company for the production of natural gas is reported to have said that natural gas as fuel would replace diesel or fuel oil at the power stations, and desalination plants in the country. He said that the fuel oil currently being used at the power plants has a large carbon content. Another factor that is likely to contribute to the popularity and acceptability of natural gas in the local market is the fact that it is comparatively more difficult to transport natural gas than crude oil. Accordingly, Mr Sultan said it was advisable to utilise natural gas as local fuel. The gas treating plant in Dubai which is the largest of its kind in the country, is to be expanded to receive 125 cubic feet of natural gas for treatment on a daily basis. Currently the gas plant is producing natural gas which can compensate for 30,000 barrels of crude oil a day and the gas production in Dubai stands at 10 percent of its oil production, Mr Sultan said. Natural gas from the emirate of Dubai is being processed in the following categories: propane, butane and the heavier gases in the distillate. Japan leads the market as far as the import of gas is concerned. [Text] [Dubayy KHALEEJ TIMES in English 7 Jun 83 p 1]

NATURAL GAS REVENUES--UAE Minister of Petroleum and Mineral Resources Dr Sa'id al-'Utaybah said last week he expected that the income of the Abu Dhabi Company for gas liquification will amount to \$277 million this year. Despite the oil crisis, the company's production rose from 1.6 million metric tons in 1978 to 3 million tons in 1982 while the quantities of natural gas obtained by the plant came to 495 million cubic feet daily. [Text] [Paris AL-MUSTAQBAL in Arabic No 326, 21 May 83 p 43] 5214

DUBAYY-IRAN TRADE--After two years of stagnation, trade between Dubai and Iran is picking up. But the pattern of trading and the types of goods moved have changed markedly. Iran has put a low priority on consumer goods--the backbone of Dubai's entrepot trade--and shifted the emphasis to industrial goods and materials. For example, Al-Futtaim Commodities, part of the giant Al-Futtaim Group, has recently signed an \$8 million contract to supply aluminum ingots to Iran's Metal Procurement & Distribution Centre. The change in trade is reflected elsewhere in the UAE. National Iranian Oil Company is to open a purchasing office in Sharjah--it already has one in Dubai--and Mina Saqr in Ras al-Khaimah is busy exporting cement and clinker to Iran. Mahen Misra, managing director of Al-Futtaim's commodities division, confirms the increasing importance of Iran to Dubai. "I have no doubt whatever that Iran is a growing market," he told ABF. "Al-Futtaim has an office there. We have had no payment problems. We use irrevocable LCs via Bank Saderat in London and Bank Mellı in Iran." Payment problems have dogged suppliers to Iran for some time, but metals are financially much easier to handle than perishable commodities like grain, where bank guarantees are known to have been confiscated if the consignment does not arrive or deteriorates after a long wait at Bandar Abbas. Sometimes bank guarantees have not been returned even after delivery. [Text] [London ARAB BANKING & FINANCE in English No 4, Jun 83 pp 65, 67]

CSO: 4400/396

SUCCESSIVE MARTIAL LAW GOVERNMENTS CONTRAVENE CONSTITUTIONAL LAW

Karachi AMN in Urdu 17 May 83 p 2

/Article by Juma Khan: "Who Was Responsible for Acting Against the Constitution? A Theological Decision Must First Be Obtained as to Which of the Martial Law Ordinances Are Not in Accord With the Dictates of the Koran and Religious Tradition"

/Text/ Federal Minister of Defense Ali Ahmad Talpur used to be a silent politician; when he was a member of the national assembly; he made maybe one speech and that also a short one of a few minutes' duration. But since becoming minister of defense, he has started to speak in the political jargon and for the past few days he has been expressing views on political affairs as well. According to the PPI, he said that martial law was repeatedly imposed on Pakistan because the constitution was being contravened.

If a government does not follow constitutional law and breaks them, should martial law be imposed? Is martial law the only way of stopping a government from contravening the constitution? If there is a national assembly in existence, if the courts are open and accessible, if the press is alive and active, but if the government is breaking constitutional law, should martial law be imposed? The fact is that martial law was not imposed as a result of the contravention of the constitution but that the imposition of martial law was in itself an act against the constitution. When Ayub Khan imposed martial law, the 1956 constitution was in effect; the national assembly was in existence; the courts were open and the press was active. When Gen Yahya Khan imposed martial law again, the constitution drawn up under Ayub Khan, called the 1962 constitution, was in force. The national assembly was in existence, the courts were open and the press was active. When General Zia imposed the third martial law, the 1973 consensus constitution was in force, the national assembly was in existence, the courts were accessible and the press was active. Ayub Khan contravened the 1956 constitution and General Yahya the 1962 one; General Zia suspended the 1973 constitution. Which is a greater crime: breaking the constitution or suspending it?

General Zia's government has formed various committees to bring the laws in force since the time of the British in line with Islamic precepts. But the government is not ready to empower any institution, not even the Islamic Council or the Supreme Court, to decide whether the martial law and its ordinances are

in accord with Islamic laws or not. The laws passed by the former governments are being reviewed; but none of the ordinances imposed by the present government can be challenged in an Islamic or in a general court. A government lawyer has maintained that under martial law, none of the martial law ordinances can be challenged in court to prove whether they are good or bad.

It was written in the 1973 constitution by unanimous vote of approval that the constitution cannot be circumvented nor can it be abrogated under penalty of death. The elected representatives of the people passed this law because they saw what happened to the 1956 and 1962 constitutions. They did not want the constitution to be destroyed over and over again. But the constitution has been suspended for the past 6 years; it is not being observed and the whole nation has been made to look on helplessly.

The vice chairman of the defunct Pakistan Jamaat-e Islami, Prof Ghuffur Ahmad, is quite correct in saying, "Islam is not permitted within the boundaries of martial law; the martial law ordinances can be shown to be un-Islamic. Whenever an Islamic law is passed, it is announced shamelessly that the law does not apply to martial law." No Muslim can object to the efforts to establish an Islamic administration, nor is any Muslim opposed to Islamization. But Islamic goals can be achieved only through Islamic means; an Islamic system cannot be established with the help of an un-Islamic administration. If the government is sincere in its efforts to bring about Islamization, it should first of all abrogate the un-Islamic ordinances that it has imposed. As long as new un-Islamic martial ordinances continue to be passed, nothing will be gained by introducing new Islamic laws.

9863

CSO: 4656/189

PLAN TO CREATE NEW POLITICAL STRUCTURE CRITICIZED

Karachi AMN in Urdu 18 May 83 p 2

/Article by Jumma Khan: "Whose Duty Is It To Create a New Political Structure for the Country?"

/Excerpts General Zia has announced his decision to create a new basic political structure under which general elections will take place. He also stands by his assurance that the new political structure will be unveiled by 15 August. General Zia has also stated that if general elections are held on party bases, then the system of proportional representation must be adopted.

Major political figures, influential public leaders and constitutional experts have already said that they want elections to be held under the 1973 constitution and that they will not accept elections held under any other system. General Zia does not agree with them and insists on designing a new political structure. He cannot do this in his capacity as president, but, being the chief martial law administrator, he wields unlimited power and therefore can do anything.

A person does many things for which he is solely responsible and for which others cannot be held culpable. There are other actions that are accomplished on the orders of a single person but responsibility for the results of which falls on his colleagues, advisers and every individual who carried out the orders.

Does Pakistan need a new political structure? Is it the duty of armed forces to create a new political structure? Which country needs a new political structure?

If Pakistan already has a constitution, if this constitution has been created by elected representatives of the people, if this constitution is a consensus one and if there is no difference of opinion over this constitution, then how can anyone say that Pakistan needs a new political structure and that only the army should pursue this task? If any party feels that the political structure proposed in the constitution need be improved upon or that it should be changed for the better, then this party can place its proposals before a national assembly and, if the representatives of the people agree with the proposals, a new political structure can be designed. If there were no constitution or if it were subject to serious differences of opinion, then there might be reason for the army to create a new political structure and enforce it.

Several public leaders bitterly oppose the decision of the military regime to create a new political structure. Some moderates disapprove of this extremist attitude. Their position is: "The political structure should not be opposed even before it is created. Let the political structure be disclosed and if it is found to be unconstitutional or un-Islamic, or if it suffers from any serious shortcomings, then it can be opposed. It is not appropriate to denounce the political structure even before it is announced." To some people, this stand of the moderates will appear wise. But the basic question is this: Why should anyone be opposed to the 1973 political structure, which all political parties created on their own accord and on which they all agreed? If any political party was opposed to the structure, why did they sign it? If, on the other hand, any outside party is opposed to this, then does it want to influence the nation's politics? Does it want to favor a particular interest, or does it want to ensure that every future administration remains subservient to the army?

For whom is the political structure designed? For the people? Or for the politicians?

Even if we assume for a moment that the political structure provided in the 1973 constitution is unsuitable and that the country should be given a better political structure, even then we have to consider whether it is only the army that can design the new political structure. Can a politically awakened nation empower its army to lead the nation's elected representatives and maintain an upper hand over them?

Only the people have the right to create a political structure for themselves.

Field Marshal Ayub Khan on his own introduced the basic democratic system. He wanted to teach the people the A B C's of politics. He believed that the people lacked political consciousness. But how is it possible to label politically unconscious a people who created Pakistan through the power of political struggle and elections? Ayub Khan introduced this new system on his own and held no consultations with either the people who were to run it in practice or who were to assume the reins of government in the future. As a result, with the end of Ayub Khan's rule, his political system also perished. Had he taken public leaders into his confidence about his political system and had he obtained their consensus with it, Ayub Khan's system would have survived his downfall and the subsequent changes in government.

How was the 1973 constitution created?

The ruling People's Party had the complete confidence of a two-thirds majority and according to democratic conventions had the right to frame a constitution of its choosing. But it knew what had happened to the 1956 constitution, which was not endorsed by elected political leaders. It also remembered the fate of the 1962 constitution, which was the brainchild of only one individual--Ayub Khan. It also remembered the fate of the basic democratic system that had been promulgated without first having the confidence of all elected political parties.

That is why the People's Party did not create a constitution of its own choosing. Instead, it invited representatives of all elected parties, made them partners

in the constitution-making process and created a system that was acceptable to the entire chamber. After obtaining the consent and signatures of all political parties, the constitution came into force and the entire country rejoiced in obtaining a constitution acceptable to the entire nation. If this constitution had not been endorsed by all political parties and had there remained disagreements over it, then it could not have maintained its sanctity and every political party would have felt compelled to resort to political agitation to bring about the changes it desired.

If General Zia and his fellow commanders are not prepared to change their decision to create a new political structure, the best advice to them is that they should create a political structure the way the 1973 constitution was created and not the way Ayub's basic democratic system was designed. If they have their own way and create a system that has already lost the support of national political leaders, then it will not survive and its fate will be the same as that of the basic democratic system.

At the moment, military rulers can bring about any changes, but if the changes are not endorsed by public leaders, they will perish as surely as the basic democratic system. That is why it is necessary that before making any basic changes, public leaders be taken into confidence and public opinion brought to favor the new changes, so that later on these changes will not cause instability and lead to political problems. The army should try to maintain the respect in which it is held among all major political parties. It should try to keep its standing among the people. Therein lies the real power of the military. No sector should harbor the slightest feeling of hatred toward the military.

12286

CSO: 4656/188

ECONOMY, VESTIGES OF IMPERIALISM PERPETUATE POVERTY, ILLITERACY

Karachi AMN in Urdu 18 May 83 p 2

/Article by Anis Hashmi: "Those Who Live in the Past Don't Live Long"/

/Excerpts/ Have a look at the world map. Where do you find illiteracy? Which areas are without technology? In this category, you will find all those countries that are under the influence of imperialism and where big landlordships flourish. Look at Latin America; look at the Islamic countries; look at the African countries. You will see the same pattern. Wherever the countries eradicated traces of imperialism and feudalism, the situation changed. Take Cuba, Nicaragua and, among Islamic countries, South Yemen; take Albania; in Africa, take Ethiopia and Mozambique. In all these places you can see progress in education and science.

We have been independent for 36 years. We resent the fact that among our rural women literacy is only five percent. The Cuban revolution is only 24 years old but literacy there is 100 percent. In our newspapers you find only news of Kabul having been conquered, but during the last 5 years, and despite the "splendid exploits" of the Mujahidin, there has been an increase in Afghanistan's agricultural production and a significant fall in illiteracy.

Did you notice that for progress in the fields of technology and literacy, it is imperative that the economic system should also be corrected? Without this, you can go on conducting workshops, you can go on having conferences, but nothing will be accomplished. Afghanistan is one of the world's most backward countries. Even there, despite the activities of the insurgents, progress was possible because those obstacles in the economic system that stood in the way of progress were removed.

It is not possible that when half of a country's agricultural land is owned by a few families, like in Laglaris, Jakois, Quraishis, etc. and officers of the civilian and military bureaucracy, progress can be achieved in education and the technological fields. It is also not possible that a country be under the thumb of imperialism to the extent that if political changes take place in a neighboring country, you take responsibility for crushing those changes in exchange for dollars to be received over a 5-year period. This implies that the status of your country remains the same as during British rule inasmuch as every order of imperialism is obeyed without question in exchange for wages; surely no progress is possible under these conditions.

The misfortune of the subcontinent has been that those political parties that were in the forefront of the freedom struggle compromised with the British and touted their so-called "independence." After World War II, Uncle Sam took the place of the British and we promptly signed a document of allegiance with them. The result is that out of all the Third World's poor and wretched people you read about in the newspapers, 100 million live in this subcontinent. Even today, imperialists take out millions and perhaps billions of rupees from our country for their own, but we feel pleased to note that Pakistan now has its own ministers, ambassadors, generals, secretaries and bankers. But we forget that in our country, per capita income is 1 rupee a day and that 50 percent of our people lead a poverty-stricken life.

Under these conditions, illiteracy cannot be reduced nor can any progress be made in the technological field. These goals cannot be achieved without bringing about changes in the economic system. Please remember this clearly. And please make efforts to effect these changes. Those who remain preoccupied with the past do not survive for long.

12286

CSO: 4656/188

PAKISTAN

BRIEFS

OUTGOING LEBANESE AMBASSADOR--Outgoing Lebanese Ambassador Suhayl Furayji made a farewell call on the president in Rawalpindi on 21 June and exchanged views with him on matters of mutual interest. [Summary] [BK230613 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 21 Jun 83]

ARAB AID--Pakistan has received aid worth \$650 million from six Arab organizations in 1981, which is the biggest amount given to a non-Arab country. This was stated in a report compiled by the United Arab Emirates Central Bank. These organizations include the Abu Dhabi Fund for Economic Development of Arab Countries, the Arab Bank for Social and Economic Development, the Iraqi Bank for External Development, the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development and the Saudi Development Fund. [Text] [BK230613 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 20 Jun 83]

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